

7 PAGES OF MUSIC IN THE TABLOID



**FASHION** IN THE TABLOID



# Saddam overthrow botched by CIA

### **EXCLUSIVE**

by Patrick Cockburn

Up to 300 Iraqis died last year as the but fomented a military coup which result of a failed attempt by the CIA to overthrow Saddam Hussein, the President Saddam bloodily crushed. The CIA débacle in Iraq may yet Iraqi leader, in a debacle which led tarnish the reputation of George J to the liquidation of the agency's ex-Teter, the CIA's director designate, tensive operation in northern Iraq. who as deputy director presided over the disaster. But one former US Only now are details emerging of one of the CIA's greatest failures official said yesterday: "As in Somalia, since it was set up 50 years ago. It not only financed an Iraqi opposition group, which killed 100 people in a bombing campaign against civilian targets in Baghdad and other cities, the disaster in Iraq was so complete that nobody in Washington wants an inquiry into what went wrong." Mr Teter will undergo confirma-

tion hearings next week in Wash-

### 300 Iraqis die after bungled operation

ington, where questions about his handling of the affair are likely to be

asked. The case with which the Iraqi leader crushed a CIA-backed coup in June, during which some 80 Iraqi officers were executed or died under torture, may have given him the confidence two months later to send his tanks into Iraqi Kurdistan. A further 120 Iraqis on the CIA payroll were slaughtered because the agency had failed to foresee the attack.

Anthony Bevins and Colin Brown

to Brussels last night.

Cabinet in January.

najority for entry.

mutiny over Europe under-mined John Major's efforts to

turn his fire on Labour's attitude

A broad selection of Con-

ervative candidates' election

addresses, obtained by The

Independent, shows outright

rency line hammered out by the

While Mr Major and his

Cabinet colleagues have agreed

to keep the currency option

open, the candidates' revolt

shows that another Conserva-

tive government would be most unlikely to muster a Commons

One of the Tory rebels who

made life so difficult for the

In their personal addresses to

Monetary union poses the

oined up, Chancellor Helmut

Kohl would become leader of the

While adamant opposition

Julian Brazier, "Backbencher

might be expected from former

s a self-governing nation".

defiance against the single cur-

In the wake of this series of dis-The attempt to overthrow Saddam asters the CIA officer in Amman, the Hussein was sparked off by the capital of Jordan, in charge of or-CIA's belief that the defection of Lt ganising the coup against President Saddam, is said by a Washington source to have received a telephone Gen Hussein Kamil, the Iraqi leader's son-in-law, in 1995, meant he was vulnerable. The CIA was eacall from Baghdad asking for him by ger for a success after the scandal name. The caller, presumably an Iraqi intelligence official, gave ex-tensive details of the coup, includover Aldrich Ames, the officer unmasked as a Russian spy. President Bill Clinton signed an order in 1996 ing the names of those involved. He for \$6m (£3.7m) in covert aid to be given to an Iraqi opposition group, the Iraqi National Accord (INA). then suggested that the CIA official pack up and go home.

payroll and was mainly recruited from former Iraqi officers and officials from the ruling party. From bases in Iraqi Kurdistan it had carried out bombing attacks on Baghdad. Details of these were spelt out by Abu, Amneh al-Khadami, the INA's chief bomb maker, who made a video - obtained by The Independent - of himself accusing his senior officer of keeping him short of mon-ey, arms and explosives as well as secretly working for Iraqi intelligence. When Iraqi tanks rolled into Iraqi Kurdistan last August they destroyed

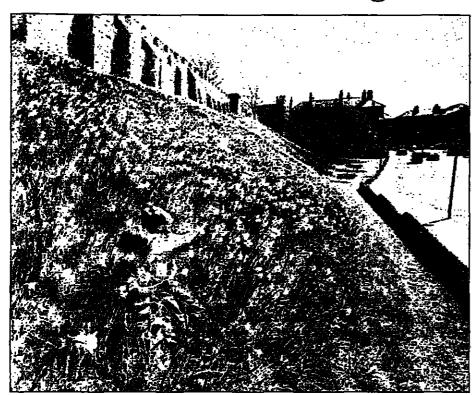
the remnants of one of the largest CIA operations in the world. Several thousand Iraqis and Kurds who had worked for CIA-backed organisations had to be evacuated to the US. Their flight ended the CIA's at-tempt to rebuild its reputation by overthrowing Saddam Hussein. ffor o of

fore se a vhat

John Deutch, the outgoing head of the CIA, is said by an Iraqi source to feel that the strength of the INA was misrepresented to him. He resigned as director of the CIA after President Clinton refused to

make him Defense Secretary: Bungle in Baghdad, page 17

### From blizzard to a drought...



### ...what a difference 2 years makes



#### Louise Jury and Jason Bennetto

Two years ago the daffodils were covered in a snowy winter blanket. Yesterday the same flowers basked in temperatures which seemed like summer. Britain was hotter than Los Angeles, Algiers and Athens, as temperatures hit the 70s in the carriest spring for seven years.

There is some way to go beat the record temperature for this point in the year - 26.5C (79.7F) on 4 April 1946, at Greenwich Observatory. But the blue skies were more than enough to bring smiles to the faces of seaside traders and

sunseekers. Two-thousand people crowded on to the beach at Bournemouth and a brave few even paddled in the water. Weston-super-Mare was

much busier than usual for the time of year." according to the burist information officer, and

at Brighton, where the temperature was 19C (66F), up to 10,000 people made the scene look more like August than

Boots the Chemist sold a record number of pairs of sunglasses - and litres of bottled water and sun cream, More people paid heed to cancer warnings and choosing higher factors, although there were also sales of

sunburn ointments. A London Weather Centre spokesman said the hottest place in Britain yesterday was Southampton airport, at 22C (72F) compared with an April

average of 11C (52F). Today will be cooler with 9 or 10C (50F). But by Sunday. there will be sonshine everywhere once more.

After 10 days with no rainfall in London, William Hill, the on a dry April to 16-1 compared and forest land in Cheshire.

with 66-1 at the beginning of the month. "We could end up being real April fools," said spokesman Graham Sharpe. Punters are gambling on a scorching dry summer.

But the sunshine has its downsides. Britain could be heading for a record year for fires in the countryside. Blazes in parklands and

heaths are for the first time the most common type of fires, suggesting that global warming may be having an irreversible effect on countryside safety. Fire brigades were called to

more than 600,000 incidents in 1995 – an increase of 26 per cent on the previous year - largely as dips in temperatures as low as a result of the dry spells. There were 174.500 grassland and heathland fires, a 131 per cent rise from 75,000 in 1994.

This year fires have already destroyed a large chunk of bookmakers, have cut the odds Dartmoor in the South West

### THE INDEPENDENT A nation-wide Tory grass-roots

Lib Dem

down 2

Harris Research interviewed 1138 adults face-to-face in their homes between 4 and 7 April

### INSIDE

Leading article, page 21 Lord Irvine of Lairg, profile, page 22 Suzanne Moore and Polly Toynbee, page 23

of the Year", tells the voters of Canterbury: "I will fight against, the abolition of the pound and its absorption into a single currency ... Britain would have handed over control forever of British interest rates and fiscal policy to unelected bankers

their voters, the candidates are resolute in their hostility. Sir Labour has already hard-Ivan Lawrence QC, who is ened its line on the single cur-

### Bell tolls for Hamilton

Martin Bell is poised to defeat Neil Hamilton in Tatton according to a MORI poll in the constituency for today's Sun, writes John Rentoul. And if an independent Conservative candidate

stands, he or she would push! Mr Bell, with Mr Hamilton a poor third.

Mr Bell, the "anti-sleaze" candidate, is backed by 44 per cent to 40 per cent for Mr Hamilton, who has been confirmed as the Tory candidate. About half of his supporters would vote independent Tory

servatives - saying member-ship is "improbable" in the lifetime of the next Parliament. Tony Blair will today step up his campaign with publication of

a business manifesto. An NOP poll of senior management in overseas companies that have invested in Britain – and employing 180,000 - shows strong support for one of Labour's key manifesto planks; the need for more skills training.
The poll, commissioned by a

Labour-supporting business-man, shows one-third of those questioned believing that basic skills in the United Kingdom were lower than in the rest of Europe: only a quarter thought skills were higher than elsewhere in Europe. Altogether, 48 per cent said that they had a pri-mary or major concern over skill levels, and a further 38 per cent

said it was a moderate concern. The poll also showed more than three-quarters of those interviewed believed that inward investment would increase (13 per cent) or remain the same

# Tories defy Major: No Euro surrender

The INA was already on the CIA

### HARRIS

Change since last week

Mr Major's confidence in his own victory has become total over recent days. One close

associate said yesterday: "He

believes he is coasting to victory. John can already see the champagne glass in his hand on That was reflected last night in a speech he used to attack

thought inward investment

would decrease with a Conser-

vative win, 13 per cent thought it would decrease with a Labour

Labour policy on Europe - at the JCB industrial earth-moving equipment plant, in Staffordshire. He said the spirit of Tory activists were up be-cause they had seen the Labour Party "crumble, crumple and crash to the ground under the first bit of real pressure. They're there to be beaten - they're the

don't knows of politics." Urging his audience to go out search of the "don't knows", Mr Major that said in one week

(66 per cent) if Labour won the election. While only 3 per cent front doors of Britain are milfront doors of Britain are millions of people who have yet to

make up their minds," he said. In his speech, Mr Major challenged Mr Blair to commit Labour to putting legislation through the Commons before he signed the European Social Chapter.

"If the measures in the Social Chapter are good for Britain and those that would fellow British signatures on the Social Chapter," he said, "let Labour argue for them, in detail, in our own Parliament, where they could be amended, added to or subtracted from, not taken in

total, without change." Signing up to the Social Chapter would hand more power to the unions to pay Mr Blair's IOU to the trade union barons, Mr Major said. He also opened a personal assault on Mr Blair's call for trust in him. He said Mr Blair could not be trusted to negotiate for Britain at the Amsterdam summit on 14 June. Mr Blair's trust was "dead Labour had lurched from gaffe, in the water," he said.

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### Could this be the answer to everyone's prayers?

The effect of the power of prayer on hospital patients is to be scientifically tested for the first tíme.

The leader of the experiments, Professor Russell Stannard of the Open University, is keeping an open mind on what might result. "God's got a will of His own and might decide not to co-operate."

The tests - funded by the John Templeton Foundation, a chantable organisation aimed at the progress of religion - will involve three groups of 600 patients. Two groups will be told they may be prayed for by a special praying team; one

other will not, but neither will know for certain who is in the

team's thoughts. A third group will know they are being prayed for and will be monitored to determine if that knowledge has a psychosomatic

effect on their symptoms. Prof Stannard, who has given

the financial go-ahead for the project to be conducted at three American hospitals over two years, said its purpose was merely "to find out what happens". The foundation is not going into the experiment hoping

that there will be a positive

effect. We are genuinely

interested in any experimenta-

"Obviously, if it turns out that there is a positive result, that will be extremely interesting.

"It would open up whole areas of research, such as different methods of prayer, and prayer for different illnesses."

Prof Stannard, who sees no contradiction in being a Christian and a scientist, said a result showing no significant differ-ence between the groups would not necessarily prove prayer did not help. He said people might pray for themselves and receive prayers from close friends and family unaccounted-for prayer known scientifically as "unwanted background noise".

### The new Armada 1500. There's one feature we've skimped on. £1199+VAT (£1409 incl. VAT) The new Armada 1500 range from Compaq -

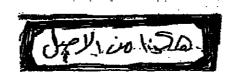
highly featured all-in-one notebooks at notably low prices. Apart from core features like a fast Intel Pentium processor and 16 MB RAM, these notebooks (including the Armada 1510) boast a wealth of fully integrated extras such as an AC adaptor. The Armada 1520D even incorporates a 10 speed CD-ROM. Quite simply you get everything you need in

one package at a cracking little price. For your brochure pack please phone: 0990 50 00 20

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THE BROADSHEET Business & City ....24-28 Leaders & Letters .....21 Architecture ........6,7 Comment ......21-23 Obituaries .........20 Arts Reviews .........19 

Rock music . . . . . . . 10-13



### significant shorts

### WPC shot by IRA gunmen in Londonderry attack

A woman police officer was shot and seriously wounded in an IRA attack in the city of Londonderry yesterday, amid apparently unfounded media speculation that a new IRA ceasefire was

The officer was shot in the chest by gummen who opened fire from the back of a white van. This was later found abandoned close to the largely republican Bogside district, sparking off a major

The injured officer was taken to a local hospital where her condition was described as serious but stable. The circumstances of the attack leave little room for doubt that the IRA's intention was to kill her. The last police officer killed in Northern Ireland died in the same city in a mortar attack in April 1994.

Republican sources yesterday continued to deny all knowledge of an IRA ceasefire some reporters have predicted David McKittrick

### Triad hostage's 12 days of torture

A gang of Triads kidnapped a Chinese chef and chained him to a radiator during a 12-day ordeal of violence, Southwark Crown

Court heard yesterday.

Xiao Ming Cao. 25, a Chinese national, was forced to make telephone calls to his family in China, telling them that if they wanted to see him alive they must pay a £40,000 ransom.

An international police operation was launched, with officers liaising with authorities in China. After two weeks, police traced Mr Cao to a house in Holloway, north London, where they

arrested five men, all Chinese nationals. Peter Clarke, for the prosecution, said Mr Cao was kidnapped as he walked past Hendon underground station, north London, on his way home from work on 22 June last year.

### Counting the cost of test-tube baby

The cost of having a test-tube baby is eight times more expensive in some clinics than in others, a report in Hospital Doctor magazine revealed vesterday.

An In-Vitro Fertilisation league table devised by infertility expert Professor Peter Baude, consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at Guy's and St Thomas's Hospitals, in London, disclosed that costs per live birth at more than 50 clinics vary between £5,325 and £41,939. He said that couples needed to know the cost per live birth to make an informed choice of what treatment to

choose. Even in the best clinics, he said, the chances of success may

#### be no better than one in five. Judge grants Douglas inquest review



There was renewed pressure on the police to revise their methods of restraining suspects yesterday after a judge opened the way for the family of Wayne Douglas, 25, whose death in custody triggered the 1995 Brixton riots, to challenge an inquest verdict.

Mr Justice Forbes ruled that Lisa Douglas-Williams, sister of the dead man, had an arguable case for a judicial review of the direction given by Southwark coroner Sir Montague Levine to the inquest jury, which brought in a verdict of accidental death.

The jury said Mr Douglas, a burglary suspect who officers said had threatened them with a knife, had died from heart failure caused by "positional asphyxia" brought on by stress and exhaustion after a chase and being held face down in the prone position. A new inquest could be ordered if Ms Douglas-Williams succeeds

in a full judicial review hearing in July. Giving the go-ahead for the challenge vesterday, the judge said it was arguable that Sir Montague had failed to give adequate or clear directions to the

### Sixth person held for Guerin murder

A sixth person was held by police yesterday in the investigation into the murder of Irish crime reporter Veronica Guerin.

All of those held during the past two days have been detained under the terms of legislation permitting suspects to be kept in custody for up to 48 hours. The latest arrest, of a man, was made yesterday morning. A man and a woman held after leaving a ferry from Anglesey, at Dun Laoghaire, Co Dublin, on Wednesday, and three other men picked up later, are also being questioned.

Ms Guerin was shot dead in her car in Dublin last June. More

than 100 arrests have been made, but only one man has been charged with the murder.

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**NEWSPAPERS** SUPPORT RECYCLING Recycled paper made up 41.2% of the raw material for UK newspapers



Faces of defiance: A lookalikes' gathering in Key West - the only event to be saved

### Bell tolls for Hemingway fans as festival is scrapped as the bell tolled for Ernest Hemingway in one he felt he could win in court. "Life's too short," he decided.

Yes, say his three sons, unless they get a cut of the Hemingway-related profits in the United States' southeramost town. Not quite, say the organisers of Hem-ingway Days, a five-day festival of literary lectures, street fairs, hard drinking and arm-wrestling contests. For the past 16 years, the fishing village-cum-tourist

resort, a mecca for gays and lesbians, has hosted the festival, attracting an average 10,000 tourists; This year, Henringway's three sons, all elderly, decided the event was "tasteless and tacky," particular-

ly the "Papa" t-shirts, caps, false bears and other trivia. sold on the streets. They threatened legal action but said they would swallow their pride for a piece of the

The event only makes around £10,000, he said, meaning the Hemingway brats were haggling over £1,000. beach comber burn, he certaintly accomplished a lot les said he would call off the formal event to in his life."

Phil Davison, Miami

But true to his literary hero, Mr Whalton is not giving in without a fight. "We're still going to hold the Heining in without a fight. "We're still going to hold the Heining in without a fight. They may be able to sue us over him but I hear the with her but I hear the without the still her but I hear the without the with her but I hear the without the without the without the with the without the wit him but I hope they can't sue us over people that look.

Last year, 127 bulky, white-bearded, dalquiriswilling men took part in the contest, at Sloppy Joe's. bar on Duval Street, a favourite Hemingway heimt. It was there he met a future wife, Martha Gellhom, relaxed after writing much of A Farewell to Arms, and from where (according to a story he liked to tell fam. self) he stole an entire urinal for his own house on Whitehead Street.

action - 10 per cent to be exact. "The festival portrayed my dad as a big-drinking Festival organiser Michael Whalton was disgusted. beachcomber burn," said Patrick Herningway, one of the Nobel-prize winning author's sons. "But for a

Fur flies over

Wintour invitation

Never resting in their campaign to

"out" famous names who cannot

give up their furs, the crew at PETA,

People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, have pulled a sturt in the midst of New York's Fashion Week that has more than ruffled British-

born Anna Wintour, editor of the US Vogue.

Ms Wintour, long a favourite target of anti-fur activists, is said to be

ready to go to court over an

invitation now in circulation amono

New York's fashion set for a PETA

fundraising bash on Saturday night.

Her anger is hardly surprising.

No-one in the fashion world likes to

have fun poked at them publicly,

least of all in the one week of the New York calendar that really mat-

ters. What good is it to Ms Wintour

if we know it was her caterer who

supplied the eats at the massively-

attended Absolut-Versace-on-Ice

Party on Wednesday? (And deli-

than a good chinchilla stole.) The invite is a glossy affair

cious they were, but harder to find

featuring a cruelly unflattering Wintour look-alike holding a mage

zine named 'Morgue'. "Anna Win-

tour requests the pleasure of your company," it says, "for PETA's Fashion Week bash". Splashed

across the fake mag is a teaser:

The PETA party will be at Club

Expo, just steps from the Fashion Week tents. David Usborr

David Usborne

"What I did with my unwanted

beaver', by Anna Wintour".

#### Blyton debate to assess author's literary merit

The decades-long argument over Enid Blyton's influence on her millions of young readers will ignite again tomorrow. A major conference to mark the centenary of the author's birth will set defenders of her lasting power to cast a spell on children against accusers who condemn her books for their snobbery, racial bigotry and sheer

Tomorrow's conference, at the Roehampton Institute in London, is organised by the National Centre for Research in Children's Literature. The Centre's director, Dr Kim Reynolds, acknowledges that some critics and parents try to steer children away from a writer whose dismissive view of the working class and other races match her "repetitive plots and persistent falsification of reality".

But for Nicholas Tucker, an expert in children's writing at Sussex University, Blyton's strength lay precisely in her ability to move straight from her imagination into the child's imagination without the real world intervening". He points out that the idea of armies of teachers and librarians sweeping Noddy from the shelves always owed more to the media than the truth: "The opposition to Blyton was always very tenuous, but it got a lot of publicity". Blyton (right), who died a mll-

ture is rewrite it".



lionaire in 1968, produced one book a month. She could finish a full-length novel within a working week and insisted on a minimum print-run of 25,000 in the post-war years of paper shortages.

She remains big news and big business. Thanks to new EU rules, the lucrative copyrights to the Fa-mous Five, Secret Seven and their friends will stay under the control of Enid Blyton Limited until 2037.

In recent years the Blyton Estate has sidestepped critics by updating the books. Offending details (such as the black-faced Gollles who mug Noddy in one book) simply disappear. So today's young readers fail to see why anyone could ever have objected. And as Nicholas Tucker notes: "One thing you can always do with bad litera-

### Refinement is the key for food allergy sufferers

Refined peanut oil appears to be safe for people who risk death from eating peanuts, new research claims today. Crude, or unrefined peanut oil, on the other hand, might be dangerous. scientists found.

A team of researchers led by Dr Jonathan Hourihane, from Southampton General Hospital, tested reactions of people with a proven allergy to peanuts to two kinds of peanut oil. They found that 10 per cent of those studied reacted to unrefined oil, but none reacted to refined oil.

The doctors said, in an article in the British Medical Journal, that it was vital for restaurant and catering staff to be more aware of food allergy. They also called for a discontinuation of the of food altergy. They also called for a disconductation of the confusing term groundnut for peanut oil, and clear labelling to distinguish between refined and crude oils.

David Reading, director of the Anaphylaxis Campaign, which aims to increase public awareness about life-threatening allergies.

said: "Sometimes people with peanut allergy describe mealtimes as

like playing Russian roulette – it can be that frightening.

"But if the risk posed by peanut oil is very low, as this research suggests, then people will find they can eat with far greater confidence."

#### SOCIETY

#### No sex please, we're truckers

Tough truckers are really home-loving men who put sex, drinking and nights out way down their list of priorities, according to a survey published yesterday.

Traditionally, forry drivers have often been regarded as

chanvinistic roadhogs who eat Yorkie Bars and car drivers for breakfast – when they're not tucking into a roadside fry-up.

But the survey found that thoughts of family and home life are uppermost in the minds of more than one in three truckers as they

travel along.

A further 25 per cent concentrate on arriving on time while 16

per cent think of nothing in particular. Just 7 per cent focus on sex, drink, food and nights out, while only 2 per cent are preoccupied with bad driving, said the survey from PHH Management Services.

"The results would seem to support the idea that Joe Tracker, traditionally the ultimate symbol of mascolinity, is in fact a 'New Man', more concerned with family and doing his job efficiently, than previously believed," said a PHH spokesman.



#### TRANSPORT

### Bus and rail complaints soar

The level of complaints from bus and train passengers in the London area is soaring, according to figures released yesterday. Complaints in the area inside the M25 between October and December 1996 rose 12.4 per cent compared with the same period in 1995 and were more than 30 per cent up on the previous three months, statistics from the London Regional Passengers' Committee, the passenger watchdog, disclosed.

Refunds and claims topped the list of complaints from main-line passengers, whereas fares and ticketing were Tube travellers biggest gripes. Bus passengers complained most about staff conduct. The pressure group Save Our Railways described the complaints level as providing "another hammer blow to the credibility of rail privatisation".

Jonathan Bray, a spokesman for the group, said: "London's rail passengers have given their verdict on rail privatisation. That

verdict is a resounding thumbs down."

Of the total complaints in the final quarter of last year, 47 per cent related to main-line rail, nearly 33 per cent related to buses, and more than a fifth to London Underground, Randeep Ramesh

### **BROADCASTING**

### Channel 5 viewers in a minority

Channel 5 can be received in fewer than half the country's homes, according to advertising agencies who have analysed its first two weeks' viewing figures. The channel had predicted it would be received in 65 per cent of homes from day one, rising to nearer 85 per cent after a year. However, the agencies' analysis shows that only 35 per cent of homes have so far watched it, meaning that just 40 to 45 per cent of them are capable of receiving a clear signal.

according to the trade journal *Media Week*.

Channel 5 had to retune 9 million video recorders before launch to make sure its signal did not interfere with TV reception of other channels. It estimated that 3 million homes would need new aerials before they could get a picture - even if they lived within a

### **PROPERTY**

#### North-South divide in house market The much vaunted boom in house prices is still subject to a North-

South divide, according to a new survey which shows house prices are actually falling in many parts of the country.

During January to March, house prices fell in all three northern regions of England and in Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland,

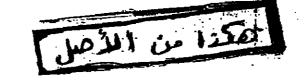
according to the Halifax Building Society. The national figures show that for the UK as a whole, house

prices rose by 1.1 per cent in the first three months of the year, compared to a 2.7 per cent rise in the period from October to December last year.

House prices nationally are now 7.2 per cent higher than they were a year ago, while prices in Greater London are more than 17 per cent higher than they were a year ago. However, the national figures for the first three months of the year have lead to speculation the boom may be waning slightly.



### HENEW SINGLE OUTASITE (OUTA MIND) AKEN FROM THE ALBUM BEING THERE' THE FIRST GREAT ROCK ALBUM OF 1997 TIME OUT A MOMENTOUS UNMASKING NIME 9/10 2. ONE OF THE YEARS BEST CD'S WHICH BORDERS ON GENIUS' STANDARD THE FIRST TRULY GREAT ALBUM OF THE YEAR' INDEPENDENT MICO HAVE LET THEIR POST GRUNGE COUNTRY CONTEMPORARIES BITING THE DUST GO



# Science, sex and Indian movies – the face of the new avant-garde

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Science will be the new avant- garde art. The Institute of Contemporary Arts in London will turn its premises over to scientists on a regular basis for think-ins, films and exhibitions on cloning and other eth-

But the avant-garde, late nineties style, will also include an Indian film for a largely Asian audience in St James's Park, and a rock concert where sixties' heroes play alongside young Britpop rebels.

The avant-garde is about to be redefined by the new director of the ICA, Britain's traditional keeper of the avant-garde flame. Philip Dodd, 47, who takes over at the ICA this month, says in an interview with The Independent that science will for the first time take its place inside the ICA with debates on ethical issues.

He is also negotiating with Westminster city council to celebrate the 50th anniversary of Indian independence with a subtitled Indian film shown to a mass audience the first time an open air movie show has been held in a royal park.

And at the cutting edge of the new avant-garde he wants exhibitions, films and shows springing from the imaginations of artists rather than curators, and "constellations of meetings", the bringing together of different generations, of scientists, artists, musicians and designers to swap

In addition the ICA will oversee cultural exchanges between London and cities like Los Angeles to bring festivals of their art, film, music and theatre to the capital.

Mr Dodd is a former editor of Sight and Sound, the British Film Institute magazine, former deputy editor of The New Statesman and one of the founders of BBC's The Late Show. He is also a member of the independent think tank Demos and an academic who has studied the history of the

"Avant-garde is a word that was actually invented in the 1840s," he says. "It came from the military. It's due for a make-over. The cutting edge now is likely to come from mongrel couplings. What the avant-garde must do is bring together different groups who have not been brought together before. It must generate new ideas, new art, bring different generations together, musicians, fashion designers, artists - just as some of the most interesting work in Britain came out of the art schools, the one place where art and music and fashion all mixed, where low and high, cultural, and

"I'm setting up with Demos a think tank within the ICA to rethink the future to i. al suspects. It will take into account the revolution in retail design, how somewhere like independence; a big gig at the Royal Feser of the director and curator in art. "I don't Pret a Manger has established itself as a tival Hall with the Clash, Pulp and Bowie think it's a supprise," he says, "that Damien

popular coffee space."
Despite a £200,000 or 35 per cent grant cut imposed upon the ICA by Westminster council to keep its council tax down, Mr

Dodd says he is determined to do "spec-

tacular things."

He explains: "I am negotiating to put on a big Indian movie in the park to celebrate





Cutting edge: A moment from Belladonna (left), the ICA's fin de siè cle exhibition about millennial angst. Philip Dodd (above) the new director of the central London arts venue, says he is determined to Photographs: Lisa May Post; Emma Boam

### How the ICA swung in the Sixties

Michael Kustow, ICA director from 1967-71, reminisced in the New tatesman recently on a Sixties ICA 🍱

I invited Carolee Schneeman, a New York pioneer of body and event art to do a happening in the still-unnished ICA cinema. She filled the lace with foam rubber and rolled round on it naked, with images of the Vietnam war projected over her. Several members of the audience stripped off and joined in. Two days later, Lord Goodman warned that the building wasn't paid for and prospective donors might be discouraged by accounts of such happenings."



-you bring together bands who would never play together elsewhere. You'd be mixing and matching the generations. I'm not going to sit down in my bloody cardigan. My son who is 16 doesn't have my embarrassment about the sixties. Young people are interested in all the generations

He will, he promises, diminish the pow-

Hirst curated Freeze [the radical art exhibition that introduced a new conceptualist generation in 1988]. Artists are closer to the ground. They are not following fashions. They are making them.

"The sixties believed in a high low distinction. I believe in promiscuity. High and low, mainstream and avant-garde, those disYour first Self Assessment tax return will be

### **ARRIVING ANY MINUTE**

### What makes for a real happening

Julia Peyton Jones, director of "A troupe called Delaguardo is the Serpentine Gallery: "It coming to us from Buenos would be foolish to ignore the Aires. They meld mounpresence of new technology and everything it can do in terms of photography and film. tal forces like water, winds and This changes the landscape in temperature control to put the ways we cannot begin to imag-

taineering, extreme sports, dance and circus, use elemenaudience through the experience they are watching."

London at the moment is very sexy. Labour and sex will probably go together. As a culture gains in confidence, sex

emerges."
Robert Hewison, author of Culture and Consensus: England Rose Fenton, London InStephen Daldry, artistic art and politics since 1940: "The ternational Festival of Theatre: director, Royal Court: "Sex is avant-garde has to escape the

coming back into fashion big institutions of the avant-garde time. The club energy that's in represented by the Tate Gallery of modern art, the Turner Prize and the ICA.

The avant garde has to escape the institutions of the avant

ented by the the Turner Prize and the ICA [above]

Nancy Tilbery, 24, fashion student, Royal College of Art: "When people start wearing their computers as part of their clothing, that's avant-garde."

Additional research: Colin



Helene Hanff, author of the best-seiler 84 Charing Cross Road, has died of pneumo-

nia, aged 80. Sheila Murphy, of Hanff's publishers Au-rum Press, said the author died on Wednesday afternoon in New York City.

Hanff captured the hearts of thousands by charting her correspondence from New York with an antiquarian bookseller in London between 1949 and 1969. The letters between the two ceased when bookseller, Frank Doel, died. ..

The success of the book, first published in 1971, led to its adaptation as a television drama, a West End play, and then a film starring Anne Bancroft and Anthony Hopkins. It has also been broadcast as a

radio play.
In 1992, Hanff completed Letter from New York - an anthology of her monthly broadcasts for the BBC Radio 4 pro-

gramme Woman's Hour in the 1980s. Throughout her life, she was fascinated literary London. In 1974, she wrote The chess of Bloomstury Street which de 84 Charing Cross Road six months after the



will recommend 84 Charles Cross Road

scribed how it felt to visit the city for the Hanff had arrived in London to publish sr married and was childless.

She would have been 81 ne

bookshop of which she wrote closed in 1971. Her two other books, Underfoot in Showbusiness and Apple of My Eye look at

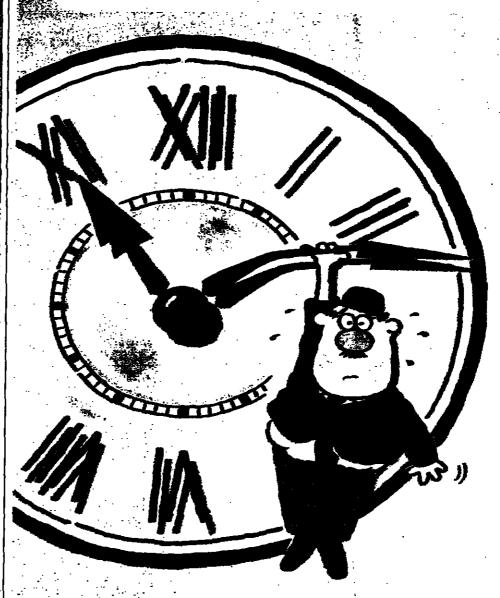
life in New York. Ms Murphy said: "Helen was one of the few writers I know who was dearly loved by booksellers.

"84 Charing Cross Road was a great ex-ample of the art of snappy letter writing. It's a classic that has never been out of print in 25 years. It's difficult to find classics that have been in print for 10 years.

"As long as books are read, people will recommend 84 Charing Cross Road to one another.

"When Helene was last in London five years ago she was on her third generation of fans. Readers had had the book recommended to them by their mothers." The US-born author lived in Manhattan for most of her life. She had an apartment

on East 72nd Street where fans continued to write to her up until her death. She nev-She would have been 81 next week



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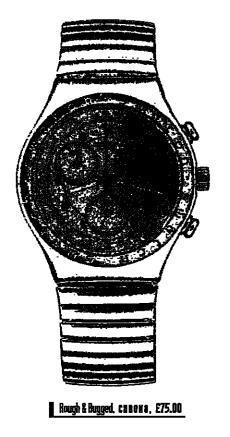


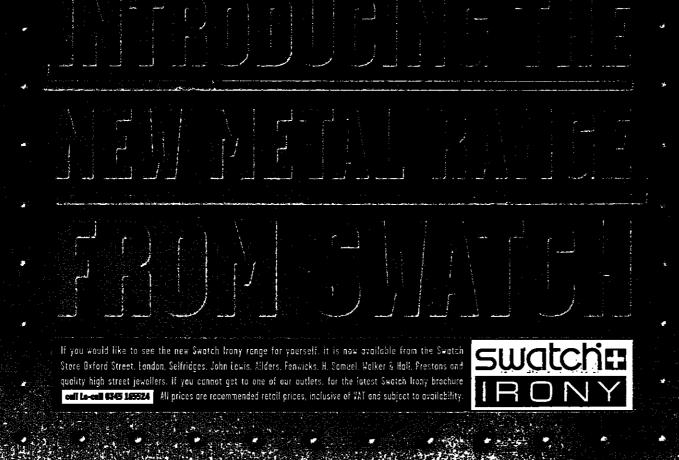


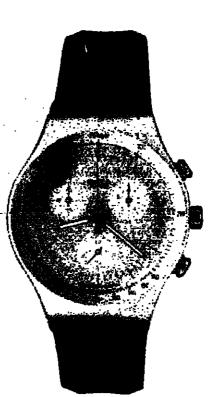
















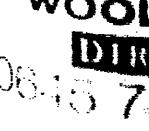












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### National Trust drives out stag hunting

Environment Correspondent

The National Trust's ruling council voted unanimously yesterday to ban stag hunting on its land after a scientific report it had commissioned concluded that the chase caused extreme suffering and exhaustion to

But two of Britain's four staghound hunts both went hunting vesterday although one of them, the Quantock, said the Trust's decision meant it was

The Trust has sent a copy of its report to the Government. Its 52-member council, which held a special meeting at its London headquarters yesterday, is asking the Government to set up an expert committee to reappraise the suffering caused by other kinds of hunting in the light of its findings.

Charles Nunneley, the Trust's chairman, said: "The council decided to make sure that whatever further measures are necessary to preserve the red deer herd in good condition by culling and deer management are carried out."

Mr Nunneley also said the two-year research project had



Derek Bateson: Concluded hunting with hounds is cruel

emotion". He added that a further study would be required before the ban could be extended to fox hunting. However, Kevin Saunders, of

the League Against Cruel Sports, said: "We believe this is a very big nail in the coffin of hunting." And Peter Davies, di-rector general of the RSPCA, said: "We are delighted with the

In the study, the Cambridge University animal behaviour expert Professor Derek Bateson concluded that to continue hunting the deer on borseback

with hounds would be cruel. The average hunt of 12 miles, meant that a decision could be lasting three hours, which ended with the deer held at bay by hounds and shot, left the animal exhausted, with very high levels of hormones related to stress and pain and with damaged muscles and blood cells. Its physiological state was the same as a deer which had suffered catastrophic injuries in a road accident.

There are at least 2,500 red deer in the West Country, mostly on Exmoor and in the Quantock Hills, and their numbers have to be controlled, otherwise they would destroy their habitat. The Trust will not renew the

licences for the three West Country Staghounds when they expire at the end of this month. The licence for the New Forest Buckhounds, which chase fallow deer, expired earlier this month. Denys White, spokesman for

the Quantock Staghounds, said the Trust owned four areas of land in its Somerset hunting range. Some 30 riders, mostly local landowners, came to yesterday's scheduled meet. "The mood was sombre," he said.

A spokesman for The British Field Sports Society said the Society would now try to find if there were any reputable experts in animal behaviour and physiology who would question the findings of intense suf-



### Mrs Beeton's recipe for happiness sold for £8,600

Clare Garner

She was known for her down-to-earth recipes and practical household tips. but letters written by Mrs Beeton reveal her simple ingredient for happiness: love.

Throughout her letters, which fetched £8,625 at a Sotheby's auction vesterday, the celebrated Victorian cook expresses her impatience to be with her future husband, Samuel

On I June 1856, weeks before her wedding, the bride-to-be, Isabella Mayson, aged 20, had her head in the clouds. "You cannot imagine how I have missed you," she wrote, "and have been wishing all day that I were a bird that might fly away and be at rest

with you, my precious one."

Despite Samuel's replies, she was still yearning to be with him. "It seems such an age since I have spoken with you and I can assure you I quite long for a quiet little chat with my old man

my dear darling venerable."

There is a hint of the no-nonsense side which prevailed in what became a culinary bible for the middle class housewife. The Book of Household Management, published between 1859 and 1861. "In a very short time you have the entire management of me and I can assure you you will find in me a most docile and willing pupil,"

Mrs Beeton died at the age of 29. Shortly after her death, in February 1865, her husband wrote to a friend of the " dreadful grief that well nigh overpowers me, and renders me unable to move or stir.

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### Pay study fuels row over NHS fat cats

**Anthony Bevins** Political Editor

Half a dozen chief executives of NHS trusts are being paid more than the Prime Minister, according to a salary survey published today.

The review, carried out by Income Data Services, underlines Labour and Liberal Democrat. Campen and Islington. the Government washing its complaints about the rocketing. The all reight chief executives hands of wast supporting in the chief executive was 30.4 per cent, and the largest pay packige went to the chief executive of the Hammersmith Hospitals NHS Trust, John Cooper, who received a total of £118,000 at ply any further information." the end of March 1996.

now on a pay and perks package of about £122,000, but

John Major's current salary is £101,557, and he is responsible for a government budget of more than £300bn.

The IDS survey shows that the chief executives of another five NHS trusts are paid more than the Prime Minister, at Guy's and St Thomas's; Wellhouse; Royal for murses in the same year. Liverpool; St George's, and This is yet another example of

costs of administration - which received pay increases of more: NHS Stephen Dorrell [Secretary have risen by more than £1bn than 20 per cent last year, with since 1989-90. The survey shows that the largest pay rise for a per cent. The highest increase of all, at 30.4 per cent, was paid to the chief executive of Alexandra Healthcare ... No explanation for this rise if available as the trust proved unwilling to sup-

The report noted that some The trust's press office said trust directors were also being yesterday that Mr Cooper was paid very well. "Medical directors' posts were the best remunerated, ranging between £50,000 for a part-time position sponsible for a budget of £200m. at Walsgrave to £112,000 at

the Edinburgh Sick Children's

Chris Smith, Labour's health spokesman, said last night that the average 6.2 per cent rise for chief executives contrasted with a doctors' increase of 2.5 per cent and a rise of up to 3 per cent of State has sat back and allowed

the pay of many trust chief ex-ecutives to gallop out of control." The Liberal Democrats said at the beginning of the month that they were committed to cutting cessary bureaucracy. Paddy Ashdown disclosed that Commons library data had shown that. "the total real-terms administranve, clerical and management costs of the NHS in Britain have risen by 63 per cent since 1990 over £1bn in today's money. Bureaucracy now consumes £2.9bn

of NHS resources".

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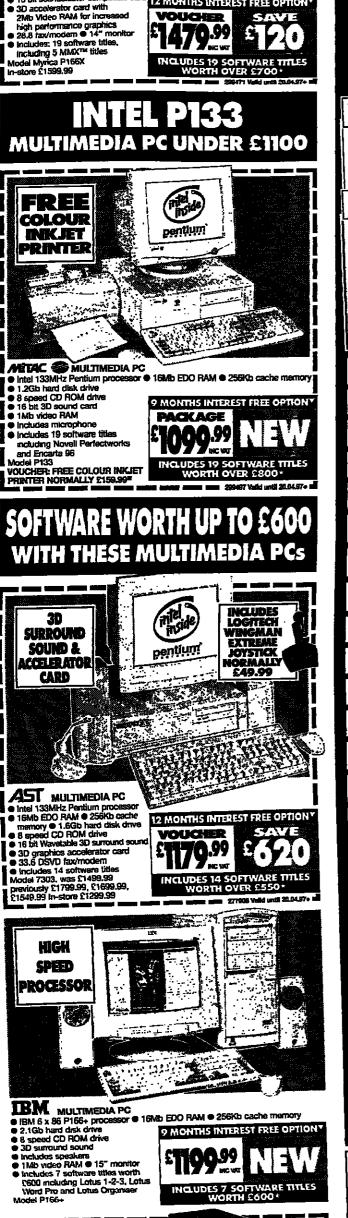
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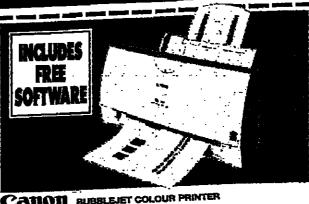
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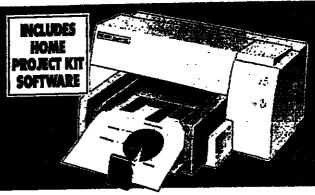
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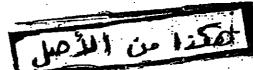
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# Invasion of the body snatchers

Misuse of bodies donated for medical research may be more common thanwas thought. Mark Rowe reports

A doctor in charge of the licensing of corpses for teaching purposes warned yesterday that the security of dead bodies in medical colleges could not be

The news follows the arrest of the sculptor Anthony-Noel Kelly, 41, who was bailed on Wednesday, after police investigated the possible use of human remains to make plaster casts.

Dr Michael Hobbs, of Charing Cross Medical School, said: "With the best will in the world if someone is really determined to get round the security system then they can."

Bodies are made widely available for medical colleges. The Department of Health said about 800 people donate their bodies to medical science every year and it has granted licences to 39 institutions to use them for research and teaching.

Dr Hobbs, who is in charge of administering licences for

6 One medical student took a corpse home on the bus. He even paid his fare. 🤊

medical institutes in London to obtain corpses for study, said: We are extremely concerned this will deter people from do-nating their bodies. We don't want anyone getting the wrong

Bodies were stored under tight security, he said. "Once we receive the body we allocate it an identification number and send it to one of the nine medical establishments in London. Only students, teachers and the relevant technicians are allowed access to them. Measures are taken to prevent visitors get-

ting near the dissecting room. The bodies are used almost solely for teaching purposes and are used only in dissecting rooms. You can't just take bits of body from place to place. They are kept securely under search and study, lock and key. We even use the state of Health

tra grilles and bars on some doors to the rooms where the bodies are and some hospitals use CCTV. Another precaution is to not draw attention to the rooms where the bodies are kept - you won't find any signs

directing you to them."

Dr Michael O'Higgins, of the Department of Anatomy and Developmental Biology at University College London Medical School, said: "This theft is an extremely rare occurrence. It is the first time I can

remember this happening." Despite the strict safeguards and the medical world's insis-tence on professional probity, tales of macabre misuse of bodies among medical students are

One doctor, who graduated from the University of Birmingham Medical School and now works in the City, said: "There are lots of tall tales, but once students actually meet a cadaver they really are more respectful than flippant.

When I was a student there were occasional reports of first years taking corpses for a walk down the centre of Birmingham. One student definitely took a corpse home on a bus ... He

even paid the poor man's fare."

Meanwhile, Scotland Yard yesterday confirmed that a 24year-old former employee of the Royal College of Surgeons had been arrested and bailed in connection with the removal of body parts earmarked for anatomical research.

A spokeswoman for the Royal College said that the person was a junior employee who had left the establishment "some years ago", but was not a surgeon.

Police were also reported to be examining body parts ex-humed at Romden Castle in Kent, Mr Kelly's family seat near Ashford. Both Mr Kelly and the for-

mer employee of the Royal College of Surgeons are being investigated under the 1994 Anatomy Act, which governs the use of human remains to train doctors and strictly forbids the use of body parts for anything other than medical re-



The cynic's view: A cartoon showing a surgeon amountating a patient's leg as a bottle of champagne waits in a cooler

spokeswoman said: "We have no record of any bodies going arriss. We believe the medical schools look after them extremely well."

The procedure for donating a body follows a similar pattern to that for donating organs. Although many people donate their bodies for noble reasons, it is common knowledge among medical practitioners that many families chose the option as a means to ensure a free funeral.

Donors have to make a written or oral statement, in the presence of two people, that they wish their body to be used for anatomical research.

The health department spokeswoman said: "The next declined to say whether it was reof kin, who legally own the body, are then approached. If there

are no objections and no need for a post-mortem examinawith via an undertaker to the place of study.

"After the three-year period, the medical faculty using the body must approach the family and inform them that the time is up. The family can take the body and parts away for burial or they can leave it for the institution to organise."

The Royal College of Surgeons in London is home to a renowned anatomical museum and receives corpses from all over the country for biological research and study. Yesterday it viewing security at its premises.

The Tabloid, page 2



On bail: The sculptor Anthony-Noel Kelly, whose family home at Romden Castle, Kent, was searched

Failure to detect cancer linked to HRT

**Glenda Cooper** Social Affairs Correspondent

may be affecting the numbers of breast cancers detected, doctors said today. Studies found an inexplicably high level emerging between routine

three-yearly screening sessions. The rate of "interval" cancers, those diagnosed between mammograph examinations, is higher among women aged 50-59 compared to those 60-64. The menopause typically occurs between the ages of 45 and 50 and this is when women are most likely to try HRT.

Writing in the Lancet, epidemiologists from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's unit in Oxford believe there is probably a link with HRT. In a letter, Valerie Beral and her colleagues say HRT at the time of screening increases the density of breast tissue, as seen by a mammograph X-ray. This may lower the chance of women having cancers detected in their

earliest stages by screening.

A US study published last year showed the relative risk of having an interval cancer diagnosed as opposed to a screendetected cancer was four times higher for women on HRT. The results suggested that in the UK in 1990 about 700 extra interval cancers would have been diagnosed among HRT users.

"This excess is sufficient to account for the higher than expected rate of interval cancer in the NHS screening programme as a whole," wrote Dr Beral.

She urged caution. "We do not know whether this will turn out to be the case. There is simply not enough evidence yet to know whether more cancers are being missed among women taking HRT.

"If research shows HRT does reduce the efficacy of screening among current users and if it also shows efficacy is restored once women stop taking it. a simple way to reduce interval cancers may be to suggest that a woman stops using HRT for a short time, perhaps some weeks or months, before she is due to be screened."

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### How I came close to death in the hands of Papuan rebels: British colonel tells his story

Photograph: Emma Boam

Retired British colonel Tim Spicer described yesterday how he was beaten up and a gun held to his head after being captured while leading a team of mercenaries in Papua New Guinea

Sandline International - the mercenary organisation at the centre of the crisis in Papua New Guinea - Col Spicer said he narrowly missed death a number of times after being captured by lo-

yesterday at a press conference in London's Park Lane Hilton. He said his company had been contracted by the bours, particularly Australia, PNG government to supply and outraged many in the PNG

After arriving in Britain on Wednesday night, Col Spicer the resolution of the internal conflict on Bougainville". "equipment and assistance for Defence Force. The situation

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was brought to a head when army chief Brigadier General Singirok denounced the deal The involvement of the mercenaries in PNG caused dismay amongst the country's neigh-

and demanded the resignation

As a result, Sandline em-

ployees were detained by ele-ments of the PNG defence force loyal to Gen Singirok and subsequently all, except Spicer, were forced to evacuate the country. Spicer was held hostage for a further six days be-

fore he was handed over to the

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charged with a firearms of-

This charge was later dropped by the court and appears to have been a pretext to ensure that Spicer remained in the country in order to give evidence at a judicial enquiry into the contract with Sandline.

Spicer stated that during his time in captivity: "I was sub-jected to illegal arrest and was deprived of my basic human rights such as the ability to contact my embassy and my family. I was physically assaulted, suffered intimidation and was subject to death threats. I had an automatic revolver put to my head on three occasions and threatened with

Col Spicer reiterated Sand-line's claim that the contract was above board and legal and said no bribes had been paid to se-cure the contract. He went on to state that he was confused by Gen Singirok's motives as "he made it clear that he was en-tirely supportive and enthusi-astic about Sandline's role in

resolving the crisis."
Col Spicer stated that the ser-

police whereupon he was supplied by any first world charged with a firearms of army. The people we hire are extremely professional with high standards of military con-

duct and discipline."
Sandline's areas of expertise included training for air crews, special forces training and training for electronic warfare operators. Spicer claimed his "personnel were under command of the PNG Defence Force ... there was never any question of their being a 'third

The Sandline contract with the PNG government was worth \$36m (£22.1m) of which 80 per cent was equipment, Spicer said. This included 2 Soviet made attack helicopters. fixed wing aircraft, ammunition, small arms and electronic warfare equipment. A large proportion of this equipment is presently being held in Australia pending the outcome of the in-

quiry.

Spicer stated that Sandline had been paid \$18m (£11m) so far and was awaiting the outcome of the inquiry before negotiating for the funds still outstanding.

He said he would be "taking vices his company provided a break before he made any oth-were "as good as the training er plans".

DAILY POEM

#### Days

By Ralph Waldo Emerson

Daughters of Time, the hypocritic Days, Muffled and dumb like barefoot dervishes, And marching single in an endless file, Bring diadems and fagots in their hands. To each they offer gifts after his will, Bread, kingdoms, stars, and sky that holds them all. I, in my pleached garden, watched the pomp, Forgot my morning wishes, hastily Took a few herts and apples, and the Day Turned and departed silent. I, too late, Under her solemn fillet saw the scorn.

"Days" completes our selections from the Penguin Classics anthology of Nineteenth-Century American Poetry, edited by William C Spengemann with Jessica F Roberts (Penguin, £9.99). The poem was written in 1857, about the time that Emerson having withdrawn from the controversy he caused with his attacks on organised religion in the 1830s - was returning to public affairs with his support for the Abolitionist movement.





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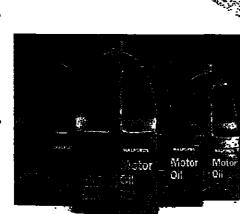
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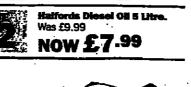


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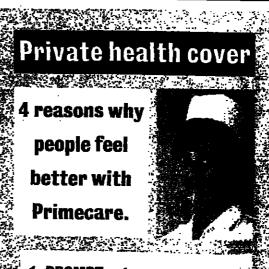
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# Carey angers teachers with call for marriage lessons in school

حكداً من الأصل

Lucy Ward **Education Correspondent** 

Schools should devote more time to. teaching pupils about the importance of marriage, the Archbishop of Canterbury

said yesterday. In an intervention which reignited the debate over teachers' role in instilling moral values, Dr George Carry called on schools to teach more about marriage. why it is important, what it needs in order to flourish and what people euter-

ing marriage need to think about". His comments in a speech to a London University conference on values and the curriculum drew criticism, both from traditionalists who support greater moral prescription in the classroom and teachers' leaders, fearful of alien-

ating pupils whose backgrounds did not reflect the traditional family unit. One headteachers' union leader said Dr Carey was asking schools to go "a step too far", while Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said teachers risked losing the respect of children from one-parent homes if they "preached that their is something wrong with their environment

#### Thoughts of the Archbishop

On marriage: "To my mind the specific mention (by the National Forum on Values and the Curriculum) of support for the institution of marriage can be translated into a great deal of new thinking and classroom work about the institution of marriage, why it is important, what it needs in order to flourish and what people entering marriage need to think about."

On virtues and vices: "Values and morals do not grow on trees or fall like manna from heaven, or just look after themselves. On the contrary, they are always vulnerable to the darker side of human nature, such as selfishness, greed, self-deception, var-ity, lust and cowardice. Virtues need hard work [and] careful nurture."

On morality: "Morality is privatised, relativistic suspicion becomes the standard re-sponse to any talk about moral standards and it is found uncomfortable, even em-barressing to discuss morality in public."

On Gu. "As a result [of privatised morality], God is also banished to the private domain as a hobby or private consumer choics which suits some people, just as bird-watching, eating Chinese take-aways or going to keep-fit classes suits others."

POEM

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**DESCRIPT** 

On evil: "The social and personal damage done to us all when evil triumphs is plain to us all. Think of the social cost of dishonesty in the workplace; think of the social and personal cost of crime ... In a society disfigured by mocal confusion and talse theories of privatised morality, a shared set of values is a significant prize."

because they don't have two parents." The debate rekindles the controver-sy which surrounded the work last year of a National Forum for Values in Education and the Community, which was set up by government curriculum advisers to identify "shared values" as guidance for schools.

The forum came under fire from a minority of its members and from Church groups who accused it of failing to emphasise the supremacy of marriage. Its statement of values was modified after consultation to include support for "marriage as the traditional form of the family, whilst recognising that the love and commitment required for a secure and happy childhood can be found in families of other kinds".

Dr Carey yesterday said he endorsed the forum's statement as a starting point, but he believed schools should go further. He urged them to build on the guidance and translate it into "a great deal of new thinking and classroom work about the institution of marriage".

Headteachers' leaders suggested their members would run into both practical

and ideological difficulties if they fol-lowed Dr Carey's advice.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association, said the dictates of the National Curriculum left only a limited time for personal and social education.

Teachers already discussed relationships including marriage, he said, but used "a fair amount of discretion" because of the variety of pupils' back-grounds. He added: "It is not a question of someone standing in front of a class and saying 'marriage good, divorce bad'. It is a question of someone saying there is a whole complexity of human relationships out there."

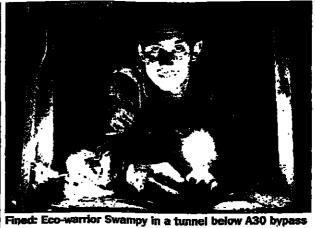
The values forum would do little to change schools' practice on teaching values, he suggested, although teachers would welcome new curriculum materials to use in the classroom.

Roger Hewins, president of the National Association of Head Teachers, challenged the Archbishop's right to advise teachers. Asking schools to teach more about marriage was "demanding a step too far", he said. "We stand in loco parentis and develop our relationships with pupils according to that, but to take it further and say we support a particular institution I think would be offensive to some of our parents".

However, Guy Hordern, one of the traditionalists who led the dissenting group on the values forum, accused Dr Carey of failing to reiterate earlier pronouncements that marriage was the "ideal" form of family. "There is a consensus that marriage is the ideal form of the family," he said.



Family man: Dr Carey, holding his two grandchildren. The Archbishop's intervention in the debate about teachers' role in instilling moral values has drawn criticism from teachers and traditionalists alike



### Swampy loses ground in runway battle

Protesters occupying the site of Manchester Airport's planned second runway lost their battle to avoid eviction yesterday as Swampy, the star eco-warrior, was fined £400 for criminal damage at the site.

The High Court in Manchester granted applications for possession orders by the airport, waiting to start work on the £172m project.

The protesters, renowned for occupying a network of trees and tunnels on the site in the Bollin Valley, Cheshire, said they planned an immediate appeal against the decision.

The orders, granted by district odge David Shannon, give the Under Sheriff of Cheshire, Randal Hibbett, the right to start evicting campaigners from the site to allow contractors AMEC and Tarmac to start work.

Phil Benn, one of 57 protesters named at the hearing. said they would try to win an adjournment and a full trial for their case. "We are seeking an adjournment until judicial review. If any evictions were to take place now it would be extremely perilous.

"The judge refused to accept there were important matters requiring a full trial.

"It was absolutely outrageous that the judge refused to allow evidence which demonstrates the airport does not own some of the land for which they are

Chris Mail, legal co-ordinator for the protesters, said papers requesting leave to appeal vould be lodged today.

He said the campaigners had discovered that three pockets of land on the site were not registered to the airport or anyone

Mr Mail yesterday filed preliminary registration of the land in his and his wife's name and would be using that as part of the grounds for appeal.

The protesters said they were now ready to begin defying any attempts at eviction, which could start at any time.

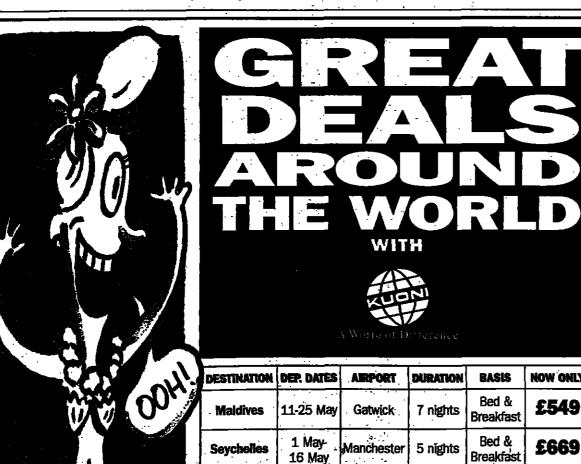
Swampy, alias 23-year-old Daniel Hooper, was fined £400 at Crewe magistrates court for breaching conditions of bail by going within four miles of the

Swampy became a household name in February when he was the last to emerge from deep tunnels dug under the A30 bypass in Devon. He has since joined forces with campaigners against the Manchester runway who have tunnelled under the site to prevent building work After the hearing, Swampy,

who was on his way to have a wash and a shave when he was arrested on Wednesday night, said he would go back to the site and dig more tunnels.

The activist said: "I pleaded guilty because I wanted to get my bail conditions dropped so I could go back to the site.

"I don't feel that what I did was wrong. I know who the real guilty people are - the people who are destroying the land. We are prepared to be locked up if that is what it takes."



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	Mexico & Tour	30 May- 8 June	Gatwick	14 nights	Room Only	£769
	Barbados & Antigua	17 April- 20 May	Heathrow	13 nights	Room Only	£849
	Bangkok & Ball	4-31 May	Heathrow	11 nights	Room Only	£889
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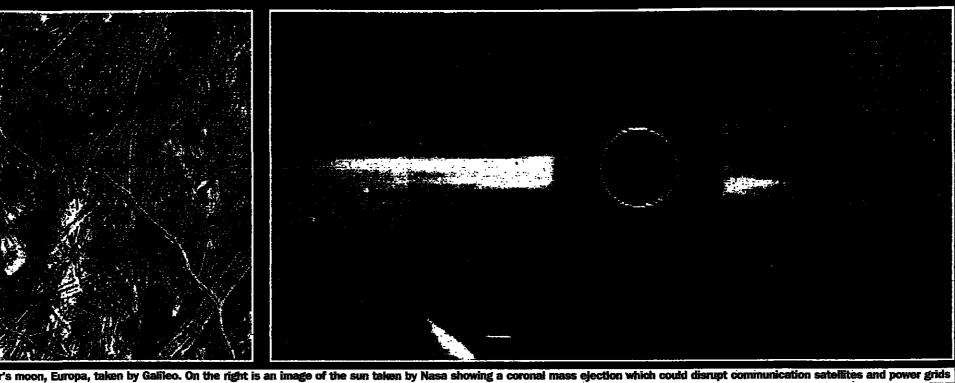
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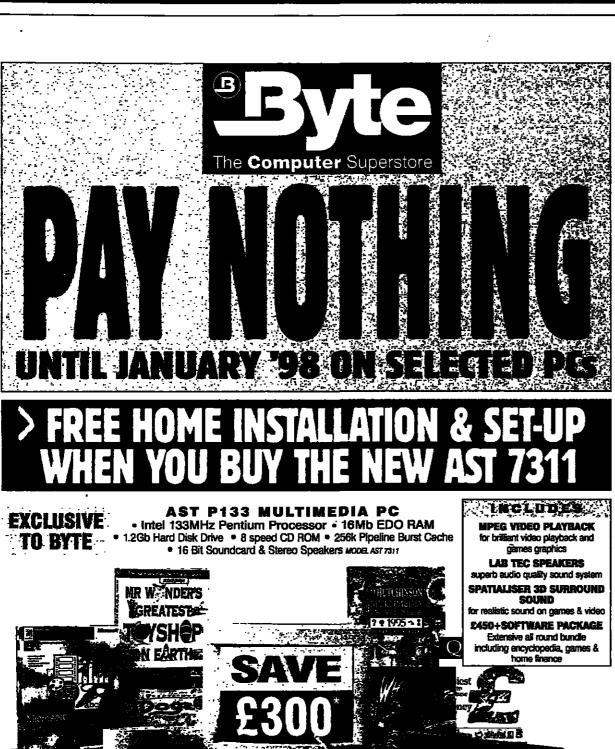
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### \*It's on a moon of the planet Jupiter

Science Editor

It is more than 500 years since a sea was last discovered, when covering either liquid water or in 1492 Christopher Colum-slush. "We're intrigued by those bus sailed into the Caribbean. Now another famous historical name - Galileo - has discovered a rather colder sea, beneath the icy crust of Europa, a tiny moon of Jupiter.

But what is exciting scientists is that they are increasingly confident that there is life among the sediment at the

bottom of that water ocean. New pictures of the surface of Europa, which is slightly smaller than Earth's moon, were taken by the Galileo spacecraft and released yesterday by the US space agency Nasa. They back up the theory that undersea volcanic activity is going on near the moon's core - while separate research published today in the journal Science suggests that undersea volcanic vents provide ideal conditions for chemical reactions leading to organic life.

At a Nasa news conference yesterday John Delaney, of the Jniversity of Washington, said: "I am sure there's life out there." Richard Terrile, of Nasa's let Propulsion Laboratory, said added that he thinks there is organic matter at the bottom of Europa's ocean. "On Earth, these same ingredients gave rise to life."

While the scientists cautioned that they have no direct evidence that there are living organisms at the bottom of Europa's ocean, they called the latest photos - which show a surface composed of ice "rafts" comparable to icebergs on Earth, and smaller meteor impact craters than a rock-solid three million miles per hour.

surface would have - a "smok-

ing gun".
The implication is that Europa may have a thin ice crust blocks of ice, which are like those seen on Earth's polar State University, who is working with the Nasa team. "Their size and geometry leads us to believe there was a thin icy layer over water or slush, and that some motion caused these crustal plates to break up."

Other research published today in Science demonstrates which are often too far down in the ocean to receive sunlight, do provide the chemical conditions needed to form molecules which are precursors of life. Other research has also shown that life can arise in environments which are completely cut off from sunlight. This means that lack of sun-

light at the bottom of Europa's ocean would not prevent life arising in the right conditions. Europa is slightly smaller than the Earth's moon, but has an ice crust. Calculations of its orbit around Jupiter have suggested that its solid core is warmed by tidal forces - which could in turn lead to volcanic activity near the core, and form an ocean of melted ice beneath the crust. ■ The solar flare thrown off from the Sun on Monday will not seriously affect the Earth, scientists said yesterday. Fears that the cloud of charged particles could disrupt power grids and satellites receded following new observations of the flare, expected to reach us today, after travelling through space at up to

lotin Wheeler

### Dwarf galaxies hold answers to giant questions

Two previously unknown galaxies have been discovered by a team of British astronomers in a region of the universe that was previously thought to be

The galaxies - classed as

'dwarves" because they contain

relatively few stars - have been named Antlia and Argo by the Cambridge-based scientists. They went unnoticed before because their low star count and lack of activity meant they did not show up in observations. Yet Mike Irwin of the Royal Greenwich Observatory, who led the research, believes the findings could hold the key to many mysteries about the formation and structure of the

He told the National Astronomical Meeting in Southampton: "Despite their unassuming appearance, dwarf galaxies hold the key to many questions about the formation, structure and evolution of galaxies."

the galaxies with Alan Whiting at the Institute of Astronomy, said: "The universe may be full of galaxies like this. It may be that our galaxy, the Milky Way, is unrepresentative of the majority." As with previous papers presented to the meeting this week, the galaxies could offer important chies to one of the

most important questions facing astronomers - the form and distribution of the invisible

"dark matter" that is reckoned

the universe," said Mr Hau. Antlia, about three million light-years from Earth, has a diameter of between 4,000 and 6,000 light years and is reckoned to contain a million stars. By comparison, our own Milky George Hau, who discovered Way has a radius of 100,000 light years and contains about 200 Antlia is so distant from

other, bigger galaxies that it will have escaped been "stretched out" by their gravitational forces, Dr Irwin explained. Argo, while closer to its lo-

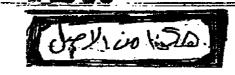
cent of the universe's mass. "If

we discover more like this it will

help us understand the nature

of dark matter and the age of

cal group neighbours than Antia, is also in an area of space previously thought to be fairly empty. It is about 13 million light years away, though the team has not yet worked out to make up more than 90 per how many stars it contains.



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# Labour to put 400,000 back to work

Fran Abrams
Political Correspondent

Labour plans to get 400,000 voung people off benefit and into work in its first year in government, senior officials

from the party said last night. Details of plans to find jobs for 18 to 24 year-olds who have not worked for six months were released as the Conservatives tious. They show that the party went on the offensive, claiming plans to spend filbn of its

promised that its scheme, funded through a windfall tax on the privatised utilities, would help

250,000 people over five years. But the costings for the scheme, which Labour says have been audited by academics, are, in fact, more ambi-

the proposal would not work and would be far too costly.

Until now, Labour has planned windfall tax, believed to be around £3bn, in its first people reach the stage where they have been unemployed year on getting 400,000 people into jobs. A further £500m would be spent in each of the following four years.

As the Conservatives point- reduce it. ed out yesterday, the number of 18 to24-year-olds has fallen to 198,000 from 280,000 since November 1995, when Gordon Brown first made the promise. However, Labour says that

for six months. So, although the total number is not going up, a

Last ni .ht a party official said the ple se to offer jobs to 250,000 young people over five years was very conservative. In fact, a Labour government should be able to help far more would cost £1.6bn per year, and a £3bn windfall tax would run out in less than two years.

people than that. The party says independent costings by other academics have also shown benefit savings will ensure the programme will pay for itself after the first five years. Labour said as many as 550,000 18 to 24 year-olds were not in work,

education or training. The Tories claimed the plan would cost £1.6bn per year, and a £3bn windfall tax would

that the Conservative claim did not take into account the savings that would be made through getting people off

"The whole point about this is that in the first couple of years you have to deal with the stock of people who are unemployed for over six months, plus all the new people who are coming on," the party official said.

conservative estimate of what we can do."

Earlier, Gillian Shephard, the Secretary of State for Education and Employment, had said the policy was incorrectly costed, and, coupled with the minimum wage and the Social Chapter, would mean more unemployment, not less.

"When will Labour learn that you cannot place extra a national minimum wage and the Social Chapter, and at the same time introduce subsidies for businessmen to take on the long-term unemployed?" she

asked. "In contrast to Labour's plans, we have in place a costed and coherent programme of training measures for young people. Are you aware of this. Mr Brown? Obviously not."

### **Quake that** was more of a wobble



#### John Rentoul

Labour's lead is closing only slowly, according to today's Independent/Harris poll, which gives Tony Blair a 22-point ead, down two since last week.

The findings reinforce the suspicion that the MORI poll for vesterday's Times, which showed the gap between the two main parties closing by 12 points in a week, was more a statistical wobble than a political earthquake. Harris's interviews were done from last Friday to and Wales), which boosts Lib-Monday, before MORI's, which eral Democrat support at the were all done on Tuesday.

But Gallup, polling on Monday to Wednesday for the Telegraph, has recorded a two-point rise in Labour's lead over the last week.

The Independent/Harris poll contains more evidence of a his data is "exactly the same as hardening of the Tory vote, with more supporters (77 per lieves the greater anonymity of cent) saying they are certain to telephone interviewers envote than Labour supporters (74 courages Tory supporters to per cent), but the difference is declare themselves. Although

drop in Labour's lead shown by MORI is partly because its latest finding is being compared with last week's unusually high Labour lead of 27 points. But polls carried out in a single day are notoriously variable, because they are vulnerable to one-off factors such as popular television events, which make neonle reluctant to speak to

doorsten interviewers. The other feature of the polls which is puzzling commentators is the consistently low Labour leads posted by ICM, although the trend in ICM's polls is also one of a slow narrowing of the gap. Part of the explanation for the difference between ICM and the rest is that its interviewers do two things before asking how people will vote. First, they ask people how likely they are to vote. What we are attempting to do is to get people to think more clearly about whether they are going to

Labour

Lib Dem

The Independent/Hamis poll

THE CAMPAIGN

Others

vote and what they would ac-tually do if they were in the polling station," says Nick Sparrow, ICM managing director. The company's research suggests that up to 6 per cent of those interviewed will happily say who they intend to vote for. while not actually intending to vote, either because they are not registered or because they are not motivated enough.

Secondly, ICM remind peo-ple of the names of the three main parties (four in Scotland expense of Labour. Next week Harris will change to a similar method by using a showcard listing the parties to ask how people intend to vote.

Mr Sparrow says the profile of the electorate used to weight lieves the greater anonymity of the gap may be narrowing The apparently dramatic slightly, the movement is slow and Labour is still so far ahead that comparisons with previous

elections are difficult to make. The average of the most recent polls from the five leading polling companies points to a Labour majority of 227 seats; our poll says 229. Yesterday's MORI poll, which showed Labour lead of 15 points, would still give it a 159-seat majority. This week's ICM poll, whose findings are most optimistic for the Conservatives, suggests a

majority of 109. Even if the polls collectively were as far out this time as they were last time, Mr Blair would have a majority of 135. In the last two general-election campaigns, the average leads shown by the opinion polls did not change significantly over the final three weeks of the cam-

1,138 adults face-to-face in their homes between 4 and 7 April.

30%

### King of Hay switches his allegiance

Labour received a royal endorsement in one of Britain's key three-way marginals yesterday. The seal of approval - a 20ft x 10ft red rose banner was unfurled at Hay Castle, the 17th-century home of Richard Booth, self-styled King of Hay. whose dedication to the printed word has made Hay-on-Wye the second-hand books capital of the world.

Booth endorsed the Tory par-

tle is surrounded by banners urging support for Chris Mann, Labour's candidate for Brecon and Radnorshire, Ron Davies the party's Welsh sookesman. unrolled the vellow and red banner from a top-floor window.

"It is very significant that someone as influential as Mr Booth who has put the town on the map should be supporting Labour with as much energy as he put in building up a global At the 1992 election Mr business," Mr Davies said. Market day crowds in the

impressed. Peter Smith, a the link between earnings and trainee psychologist who was browsing in the Honesty Book-shop, said: "If you want a Brecon and Radnorshire is Labour government then you have to vote Labour, especially here where a Liberal vote is just a waste because the Liberals will never be in government. I want the Tories out so it's clear

where my cross will be put. work as warden of an old peo-

pensions they insulted people

Brecon and Radnorshire is a vast tract stretching from the old mining town of Ystradgynlais in the south, to Knighton 60 miles away in the north, a town so close to the English border that the train station is in Shropshire. The constituency is being At 74. Emma Jones is still at fought for with few holds ork as warden of an old people's home. She said: "The state only visit to Wales earlier this

ty. Five years on, his palatial cas- town's narrow streets appeared at work. When the Tories broke Evans, a junior Welsh Office minister, who scraped in by 130

votes in 1992. Richard Livsey, a 61-year-old farmer and lecturer is flying the Liberal Democrat flag again. For Labour, Mr Mann, 46, and a probation officer is contesting the seat for a second time.

The Referendum Party is fielding Liz Phillips, a local community councillor. At 21, Plaid Cymru's Steven Cornelius claims to be the youngest candidate in Britain. Both will do pension's not enough so I'm still week to support Jonathan well if they save their deposits.

### Ashdown rallies Lib Dem troops

Barrie Clement

Paddy Ashdown last night urged his supporters to look beyond the poll ratings and convince the electorate that a vote for the Liberal Democrats

was "no longer a wasted vote."
With the Party sticking stubbornly at the 10 to 13 per cent level with just 21 days to go. Mr Ashdown attempted to rouse his troops with a passionate state-

ment of his personal beliefs. He told an audience of activists at Southport that he had abandoned his career as a diplomat and had come home from Switzerland because the country was in a "mess" and be and his wife wanted to do something about it.

It took him seven years to win Yeovil for the Liberals - his party having languished in third place in the constituency. There was no reason why the success at The Oval should not be repeated nationally.

Since his return, Britain is no longer being held to ransom by unions, but the old public inefficiencies have been replaced

by the new "private greed". Like Attila the Hun the Conservatives had destroyed much and in its place had created little of long term substance.

The Lib-Dems wanted to create an "opportunity Britain where everybody has the chance to be a somebody." That commitment had been one of the central principles of Liberalism since the political movement was founded.

He wanted the Liberal Dcmocrats to be recognised as the education party. "In the years ahead, the economic success of our country will stand or fail on the education of Britain's people. "That's why education is so

important. Why our party's No.1 priority is to make Britain the world's best-educated nation, the leading learning society, in the next century." The cornerstone of the policy

would be £10bn worth of extra investment over the next five years, funded by an extra penny on income tax.

Yesterday's report from the Institute of Fiscal Studies showed there was a real choice facing both other parties. They could either keep their promis es on tax or break those pledges by maintaining decent services. By accepting the government's expenditure plans they had bought in to the "Conservative

con trick". With 5,000 Lib-Dem councillors in the country it was no longer a party of protest, but the party of power. "No longer a wasted vote, but a vote for winners.

### chief digging for Tory victory

Chief Political Correspondent

Tony Blair was yesterday disowned by the head of JCB. Sir Anthony Bamford, whom he described as a member of his winning "team". Sir Anthony invited John Major to stage a ral-ly at his 175-acre plant in Staffordshire as a show of support for the Tories, and accused "rope him in".

Interviewed while Mr Major and his wife Norma chatted to his workers. Sir Anthony cast doubts on Mr Blair's fitness for

he said Mr Major had been Foreign Secretary and Chancellor before becoming Prime Minister. "The other one, I don't think he has done a job in his life and that is the top and bot-

tom of it." Tory party officials said he was furious at the way Labour had played up a visit by Mr Blair last September after the TUC conference, when he described the Labour leader of trying to the Labour leader as "a refereshing politician". Mr Blair described the trade

union relations in the JCB plant Comparing the two leaders, united and we will win," he said, posed to the single currency.

was backing the Tories to win the election. I am not a Labour voter. I haven't been nor will I be. We invite politicians of all colours here. Blair came as a very welcome visit. He was impressive but he has never been tried as Prime Minister."

Sir Anthony's repudiation of Mr Blair came as a further boost to Tory morale, seeking what the Americans call big Mo' - the momentum to carry their campaign forward after being stalled for three weeks on in his keynote speech to the par-ty conference. "We are on the for Mr Major. Sir Anthony is a same side, the same team, Britain strong Euro-sceptic who is op-

"Having one currency in Europe, everybody knows just doesn't end there - you have a central bank, a common interest rate; it's a political thing, we end up with a federal Europe which I'm really against."

Sir Anthony is rated one of the richest men in Britain, with a fortune based on the machine that bears the family initials and has become synonymous with industrial diggers. He said he had won a lot of money betting on Mr Major to win last time, and had bet on him again to win. He refused to confirm he was

a donor to party funds, but Mr Blair told the party conference last year that Sir Anthony was

Tory party, and it is believed he is among the top earners who have helped to fill the Tory war chest for the election. A Labour spokesman last

night denied Mr Blair had said

Sir Anthony Bamford was one of the party's backers. A spokesman said: 'We have never said that hundreds and hundreds of business people are all going to start voting Labour. What we have said is that there's a new relationship with Labour. They are prepared to talk to Labour in a way which has not happened in the past. We welcome that new and changed relationship."

Poll position: How it all adds up

As Labour prepared for today's business manifesto launch, the Conservatives set up a two-pronged attack on its union links. John Major told an enthusiastic audience in Rocester, Staffordshire, that union leaders were both paying for a Labour victory and praying for one. Under new Labour the unions would have rights even Michael Foot never dreamed of, he said.

27

The President of the Board of Trade, lan Lang, wrote to union leaders to say he was "mystified" by their silence on Labour's privatisation plans. Mr Blair retorted that anyone who tried to

bully a government led by him would receive The Liberal Democrats began the day, for the second time in a week, with a briefing on the state of the health service. Then the party's leader, Paddy Ashdown, wrote to both Tony Blair and John Major to ask how they intended to find enough money to avert an impending crisis in the education and health

Tony Blair said he felt like a pop star after he was mobbed by hundreds of screaming schoolchildren as he arrived at a Midlands

Mr Blair and his wife Cherie landed by helicopter in the middle of the playing fields of Arrow Vale High School, Redditch, to be greeted by hordes of excited youngsters.

### KEY ARGUMENTS Labour tried to keep up the pressure claims that the Chancellor had admitted families were paying £7 more

in taxes each week than at the last election. "The Chancellor has now confirmed what Labour has been saying - that taxes have risen since the last general election," the Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown, said. The Conservatives, meanwhile, were also anxious to keep up the pressure. They began by targeting Labour's Welfare to Work plans before moving on to privatisation, the unions and Europe. Mr Major claimed Britain's adoption of the social chapter would "conscript our young people into Europe's army of the unemployed\*.
The privatisation of Air Traffic Control hit the headlines early in the day, when a union official said he had been assured by Labour that it was still opposed to such a move. Labour countered that it was no longer against the sale, but could not see how it would make any money. Paddy Ashdown was forced to deny rumours that he would stand down after the election, joking that his

successor had not even done



THE HURRIED VOTER'S GUIDE

Jimmy Young excelled himself yesterday when he succeeded in pinning down Tony Blair on Labour's muddle . over the future of the air traffic control system. Despite Mr Blair's appeals to "leave that aside as it is", Jimmy pressed hard to get an answer on which member of Labour's transport team had ruled out privatisation. Eventually Mr Blair gave a clear answer. "I'm not sure ... I simply don't know," he

ONE TO REMEMBER



Imagine enjoying your early days on earth at a farm in Scotland and suddenly a politician arrives from London. picks you up and starts baaing at you. The poor lamb, at Stagehall Farm, Galashlels, separated from mum by Paddy Ashdown understandably was upset as indeed was mother who was: shaping up to butt the Lib Dem leader. The farmer's solution? - he advised Paddy to start bleating to calm mother and babe

### HOGWASH

GMTV Interviewer Flona Phillips attempted to tackle Gillian Shephard on the real issues: "Everyone is saying what the Labour Perty hash't done. What the Tories haven't done. What are you going to do?" But Eamonn Holmes interjected: "Let's talk about positive things". "You're quite a fan of Mr Motivator aren't you?" sald Ms Philips. "That is perfectly true," revealed Mrs Shephard. "Who is your Mr Motivator?" "Mr Major is a great motivator as far as I am concerned."

### THE OTHER PARTIES

It had won the economic argument for independence, with their Treasury spokesman, John Swinney, claiming "the entire unionist case against the economics of independence has centred on the myth-of

The Scottish National Party claimed

subsidy, and it has now been destroyed."

The Scottish Socialist Alliance launched Its first manifesto, accusing MPs for lining their own pockets at the expense of those less well-off. The Liberal Democrats said Plaid Cymru's

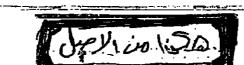
plans for devolution would entail an increase in income tax to 73p in the pound for the basic rate.

€;

### MEDIA STAR



Peter Hitchens of the Daily Express made himself the centre of attention when he tried to catch out Mr Blair in Labour's. morning press conference. He asked the Labour leader whether it wasn't hypocritical of him to send his son to a grant-maintained school. Mr Blair said: "We are quite committed to maintaining church schools". Mr Hitchen replied that this was not a proper answer. Mr. Blair said it was, and both men talked at each other until Mr Hitchens, a longtime initiant at Labour press conferences; was warned that he risked not being called again.



Major himself reminded the electorate that election pledges should be viewed

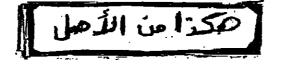
with some cynicism. Asked about the promise and performance at the last

election, he said: "We have never hidden the fact that during the recession

tend to be based on predictions, but "I have learnt from experience that no

we put up taxes and we are now bringing them down". Election promises

one can absolutely foresee what will happen in the future"



# Charities gang up on Blair and Major

Nicholas Schoon **Environment Correspondent** 

A coalition of leading pressure groups and charities will today attack John Major and Tony Blair for ignoring issues concerning morality, social justice and the environment which, they insist, are of real concern

The Real World Coalition, made up of groups with more than 2.4 million registered members or supporters, said its opinion poll carried out by MORI last week showed that people cared deeply about problems the Conservatives

Ashdow

rallies

troops

and Labour did not want to talk about. But it exempted the Liberal Democrats from its claim their report, Unemployment and about. But it exempted the Liberal Democrats from its claim that the main parties had "betrayed the electorate":

"The major parties conspire among themselves to keep such issues off the election agenda," said Jonathon Porritt, founder of the coalition and its leading spokesman. He said this had happened in past elections despite "overwhelming evidence of just how much people care about environmental and socialjustice issues"

The attack today comes to-wards the end of a week in which 11 British churches com-

the Future of Work.
Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal
Democrat leader, has also accused Labour of concentrating its energies on wooing just 70,000 uncertain voters in key marginal constituencies rather than all 44 million registered voters.

Real World's poll was carried out among 1.069 adults and was paid for by two members of the coalition, Oxfam and Priends of the Earth. People were ques-tioned about 10 of Real World's key issues, ranging from clear targets for cutting road traffic

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ween rich and poor in Britain

them" followed by "tougher laws on the international arm trades, including a ban on the use of land mines'

Mr Porritt said: "The poll figures are significantly higher than one would normally expect at this time in an election campaign. I'm not claiming our issues are more important than the state of schools and the health service, nor the economy or crime, but they are more important than the media and the parties appear to recognise." Tony Blair and John Major had

chosen to ignore them, he said. Real World has analysed the manifestos of the three main

parties to see how they accord with its campaigning for more help for the poor in Britain, in-help for the poor in Britain, increased third world aid, constitutional reform and greater

of which come together under the umbrella of "sustainable de-

Mr Porritt, a former director of Friends of the Earth, said he personally felt the Liberal Democrat manifesto had a clear lead, but the Charity Commissioners had warned Real World's members they could not endorse any one party or draw up a scorecard to show which rated highest. "Even an implied

environmental protection - all

over a year ago, has 44 mcmbers. They include Oxfam, Christian Aid, Save the Children Fund, Friends of the Earth, the World Wide Fund for Nature, Charter 88 and the Child Poverty Action Group. It has 70 local groups agitating around

the country.

Disappointingly for some of Real World's members, only 36 per cent of those questioned foreign aid was an important issue and just 9 per cent thought

### Farmyard visit brings out the beast in Ashdown



It must have seemed to Paddy Ashdown as if Parliament had reassembled. He party leader found himself squatting ing the electorate. Mr Ashdown also en-House of Commons. enveloped in a pungent miasma, to the accompaniment of animal noises.

In fact, Mr Ashdown did a spot of bleating himself, writes Barrie Clement. The Lib Dem leader was persuaded by a farmer, Nigel Miller, that the only way to make lambs feel at ease was by imi-

tating the noise of their mothers. So the was accusing the Government of fleec- minded the Lib Dem leader of the making "baa" sounds. Labour and Conservative spin-doctors would never have allowed it. Representatives of the looked distinctly miffed, having been sepmedia looked on, contributed to the zo- arated from his harem. The beast, to inological atmosphere and made pointed troduce a naval metaphor, didn't seem remarks about the "woolly" nature of . to like the cut of Mr Ashdown's jib. The

Galashiels, in the Borders. This was "Pride Lover of Haymount", which

get their faces on television. Margaret Thatcher was not one to pass up such an opportunity. One of the more memorable ages of the 1987 election showed her clutching a calf. There was no record of

Photograph: John Voos

# MANDID DATE

### by Aanonymous

€ No one

believes that

they're going to

be re-elected

so no one is

interested in

Ken's plan.

o we stood in the shade of the white cherry blossom tree and our minders told us that there had been a slight delay. Three bours of travelling, not a sight of the Can-didate (though his disembodied voice reached us as it took part in a radio interview). And now, sheltered from the blazing sunshine,

here we were - waiting. As the occasional pristine petal drifted softly on to my head and shoulders, my mind shifted to a room or bus somewhere, in which two key advisers and the Candidate himself were meeting. I don't know the place myself. When - one day - the history of this campaign is written, we will discover exactly how this meeting took place, who was there and what was said. But - details aside this is what happened.

Adviser A had his large, handsome head in his hands, his posture completely at odds with the garishness of his shirt, the yellow and red optimism of his tie, and the shiny brown brogues

on his large feet.
"I do not," he said, "believe this is happening. Air Traffic Controlgate for Christ's sake!" The Candidate winced at the obscenity,

sucked in and then blew out his cheeks, checked the retort that as on his iros and "Look," he said. "It's not ideal. But we need to concentrate on what happens now. I mean, what's the damage? Bobby?"

He turned to the sharp-featured man who had been studying him intensely throughout.

Adviser B cleared his throat and very precisely uncrossed his legs, resting his hands on his two thighs. "This problem," he enunciated carefully, "has its ori-gins in the collision of two competing desires. The first was Andrew's wish to make a speech

to the last conference showing that he would keep alive some small part of the flame of radicalism brandished by his predecessor, Clare.

"At that time there was no reason to believe that the issue of privatisation arose, so the speech was cleared - by Gordon's office. No, let me finish, Al. If we don't understand what has transpired we will make the wrong decision about how to handle it.

"The second desire," he continued, "was to be able to sign up to Cuddly Ken's spending plans as a token of our rectitude, forswearing any increases in taxation levels beyond those

that he had already set in train. Alas, the fat chap had littered the darker, more obscure corridors of his plans with hidden boobytraps. They assumed him doing lots of things that he never both-ered mentioning to the British people and – indeed – to his colleagues. Like privatising Air

Traffic Control. "Yes, yes." broke in the big man, impatiently. "So we get jumped on because of Ken's gap!

Bobby smiled a thin little smile. "This is a tough business. No one believes that they're going to be re-elected, so no one is interested in Ken's plans. We get it in the neck just because we are so far ahead. Anyway, where was I? Oh, yes. So when Ken is found out - or rather, conveniently finds himself out - it leaves

us with a hole in the spending plans.
"Now, we could have said: 'Shit! That means a tax increase, but blame the Tories'. Just imagine what they would have made of that. Or we could have told the truth and said: 'What's a billion between friends? We'll get it out of contingency.' But that would have done sod all for our fiscal prudence stance. So we

opted for 'OK, let's privatise it, if necessary' approach. On the upside this still means look lean and mean ...

"And on the downside it makes us look like unprincipled ditherers," Al broke in. who say that we will never. ever, tolerate a thing one month, and then say it's quite conceivable the next. As a result it all unravels, dominates the news for a whole week, and reinforces the impression that we do not care very much what we say as long as we win. And all when the polls show the gap

is closing."

The Candidate sighed. "Look, it's done now, for good or ill. You tried your hardest. The thing is, how do we deal with it now?"

Bobby got up, went over to the window and turned to face the room. "It feels uncomfortable, I know. It makes some of our friends in the broadsheet press rather nervous. But how does it play in the tabloids?

"Is Worcester Woman talking to Peterborough Person about it in the pubs? I think not. Courage mon amis. The smallest polling gap is 14 per cent. So hold the line and win the prize."

### Major pledges no promises that he will not raises taxes again

John Major was unable to give any guarantee yesterday that he would not again increase taxes, after Labour attacked him for breaking promises made during the 1992 election campaign.

Tony Blair told his daily election press conference that the Tories were running for

"We saw it yesterday on tax." he said. "Mr Major simply cannot be allowed to get away with it when he claims the tax

Steve Boggan

Tony Blair threw his campaign

schedule into chaos yesterday to avoid a potentially embarrass-

ing meeting with Mohamed Al

moversy had driven away.

Blair shies from

encounter with

Harrods king

office, but running away from

Will be confirm that the average off? Will he confirm that a two-

Independent Commons

have risen since the election. conference yesterday: "We have to do so. "I have made that it. It is not in our minds to do family is at least £7 a week worse during the recession we put up earner family with children is £13.70 a week worse off?" them back down again." But he said that Wednesday's

library data shows that the Institute for Fiscal Studies had percentage of income taken in tax from a couple with two children and one earner on average earnings of £411.30 a week in the current financial year is 35.1 per cent, compared the year of the last election, and 32.2 per cent in 1978-79, when Labour was last in office. It rose to 35.7 per cent in 1995-96.

never hidden the fact that point on the basis that we are so. We have no plans to do it but taxes and we are now bringing

independent report from the also confirmed "that the average family was £15 a week better off after earnings growth, tax changes and inflation."

But when pressed on the question of Conservative plans for value-added tax - whether the Tories were going to make any further switch from direct to indirect taxes, as they had done in the past - Mr Major said again that he had no plans to suppose we would have to do

going to keep public expendi-

However, he added that he had to retain the qualification that no government could give an absolute guarantee. "I have learned from experience that no-one can absolutely foresee what will happen in the future.
"I did not know before the last

ture down."

election how long and how deep the recession would be. I said at the last election I did not intend to put up taxes. I had no plans to put up taxes - nor did I. "But events forced us to make changes. I see no reason

no-one, no Treasury minister, can absolutely foresee what will happen in the future."

Meanwhile, Paddy Ashdown

yesterday wrote to Mr Major and Mr Blair, challenging them to prove their spending plans would not result in the "devastation" of public services. Grabbing an issue which he hopes will at last give him a high

profile in the election campaign, the Liberal Democrat leader argued that the planned financial stringency of the two main parties would result in a crisis in health, education and



Tony Blair arriving at Redditch yesterday

it, he told pupils not to feel cynical about politicians.

and nearby residents suggested that the constituency - identi-fied by The Independent as an area as vital as Basildon for victory - was turning to Labour.
"I'm going to vote for him,"

women in Malaysia and Hong Kong. The talk was of technology, manufacturing and the

training of a "flexible workforce", one of Mr Blair's major Mr Blair tried hard not to ac-

knowledge it, but it was clear from the behaviour of his hosts at Warwick and his satellite correspondents, that they University where he spoke by viewed him as the next prime

Photograph: Edward Sykes

### political shorts

### Record postal votes hold key to marginal seats

Record numbers of postal voters could decide the outcome in a number of seats, according to election administrators. In Southampton Itchen, the number of applications for postal votes already received is enough to wipe out the majority won last time by Labour's John Denham. Each of the city's two marginal seats has seen 1,500 applications. "At the rate they're coming in we'll be closing in on 2,000 by next Wednesday," said Malcolm Dumper, elections

Labour's majority in Itchen is only 1,053. James Hill, Tory MP for Test, Hampshire, defends a majority of 2,722. Boosted by a local-radio information campaign, postal votes will be well up on the 1,500 sent out in each seat in the last election. The deadline for applications across the country is 5pm on 16 April.

### Labour up, Tories down in Wales

A poll for last night's HTV Wales This Week programme gave Labour 59 per cent of the Welsh vote, compared with 50 per cent achieved at the 1992 election. Tory support has fallen from 29 per cent five years ago

to 20 per cent, with the Liberal Democrat share down from 12 per cent to 9 per cent. And Plaid Cymru support is up to 10 per cent from 9 per cent. The Referendum Party's share

### Martin Bell's HQ address

In response to readers' requests, the address of Martin Bell's campaign headquarters is c/o The Longview Hotel, Manchester Road, Knutsford, Cheshire WA16 0LX.

Mr Bell has asked us to make clear that until he is formally adopted as an election candidate - a decision expected on Monday evening - he cannot accept any funds. In the event of his being successfully nominated, he asks that individual contributions should not be more



The Independent is on the World Wide Web at last, with a general election web site run jointly with Virgin.

Independent/Virgin

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on the web to expose the issues that really matter to intelligent

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when his press secretary, Alastographers smiling gleefully on the tarmac. They had learned that Mr Fayed 6 Sikorsky 76 was due to land from his estate in Boxted, Surrey, just as Mr Blair was due to board his Cab Air Squirrel bound for a meeting with chil-

alised that a meeting could have been misconstrued," said a senior Labour source. "We don't have anything against anyone, but a meeting could have been misconstrued."

from boarding his campaign helicopter until Mr Fayed's had terminal and waited until Mr Fayed had been whisked away. landed and the man at the cen-Harrods said Mr Fayed betre of the cash for questions congreat opportunity. "It was a Mr Blair's delay, at Battersea great chance to have a Living-Heliport, south London, came stone/Stanley meeting because

He could have had the opportunity to say, 'Hello, Mohamed, thanks a bunch for getting rid of all those Tory ministers." The delay, and a refuelling stop in Elstree, meant that Mr Blair's visit to the Arrow Vale high school in Redditch dren at a school in Redditch. Their eyes lit up and we re- was cut short.

Fayed, the owner of Harrods.

The Labour leader refrained his wife, Cherie, back inside the

Last night, a spokesman for lieved Mr Blair had missed a tair Campbell, spotted two phogreatest benefactor."

Support among passers-by

However, he was given a lives opposite the school. Alloud welcome and, despite the though a Labour supporter, reason for cutting short his vistive Club, where waverers are beginning to surface.

"Tve begun to notice a few people switching. People are fed up of unemployment and Later in the day, the Labour leader travelled to Warwick

and Fran Abrams

The use of American-style "zero tolerance" policing in Britain thrust the issue of law and order into the election yesterday and provoked a dispute between the three major polit-

ical parties and police chiefs. The row follows comments by Charles Pollard, Chief Constable of Thames Valley Police, who said "zero tolerance" was in danger of becoming empty rhetoric that could lead to rioting by victimising ethnic minorities.

Both the Tories and Labour have grasped the concept of zero tolerance, first tested in New York where no crime however small is ignored, and promoted it in their manifestos.

But yesterday, when questioned on the issue, John Major appeared to take a more liberal stance than Tony Blair when he stressed that some petty offenders were simply "inadequate" and that resources should be targeted at professional criminals. He said: "I don't think zero tolerance to one-off offenders who may be inadequate in some way is the right way to deal with them. When you are talking about the professional criminal class it is

the right way to deal with them." Labour immediately accused the Tories of being "hopelessly split" on the issue. Jack Straw, the shadow Home Secretary, said: "John Major said that zero tolerance was not appropriate for one-off offenders. Subsequently Michael Howard [the Home Secretary] has supported such an approach. If they can't agree on whether disorder should be tack-led, it is no wonder that David Melior has said they have 'lost

the plot on law and order"." Labour sources said they ith chief cons

not be used in isolation and that the aggressive US approach was inappropriate to Britain. However, Mr Blair said earlier in the day that he did not

accept claims that the policy could cause riots. "The only way to get crime down is to say there are certain decent standards in this country and we are going to force them all the way through. I am absolutely passionate about this because otherwise you are ad-mitting there is a level of crime

you are prepared to disregard." Alan Beith, home affairs spokesman for the Liberal Democrats, argued that zero toler-ance was a "misleading phrase". He said: "If it means an intolerance to people who are simply different in their outlook and style to the rest of us, then I think it is rather a dangerous concept and there is no way you can enforce every law, every minute of every day."

Meanwhile another senior police officer, Ray White, president of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief. Constable of Dyfed-Powys, stressed that zero-tolerance tactics were expensive, and were not a complete answer to crime.

He said: "We would also be concerned of any false impression that the police hold the key to resolution of all social ills. Other agencies and the public have vital roles to play. It would be wrong and dangerous to deal solely with the symptoms of any societal breakdown, without seeking to address its causes."

Det Chief Insp Ray Mallon, who has led a zero-tolerance style initiative in Middles-brough, insisted, however, that such tactics could pay handsome dividends. He said: "We are not prepared to be a wishy-washy

as you like.

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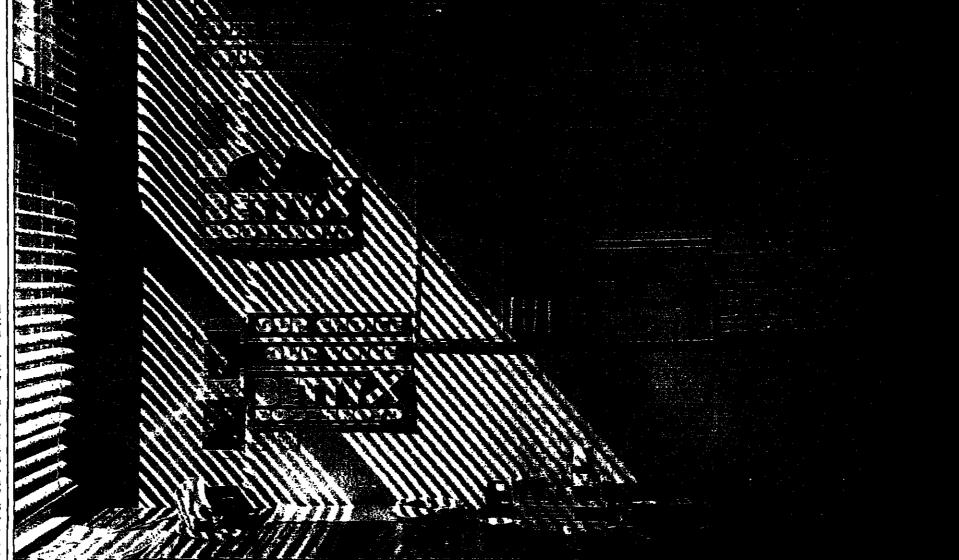
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Chivalry tops ballot in sleaze-free zone

There is a small corner of Britain that is blissfully untroubled by party politics. No mud-slinging pollutes the air in West Bromwich West; sleaze, as far as the locals are concerned. belongs on another planet.

Far from being at each other's throats in this Black Country constituency, the three main parties have formed a unique coalition. What unites them is Betty Boothroyd, the local MP, and Speaker of the House of Commons.

For the first time in 27 years, mainstream parties are observing a convention of not contesting the Speaker at a general election. Such is Miss Boothroyd's popularity here locals call her "our Betty" - that

seat. Miss Boothroyd, Labour MP for West Bromwich West since 1973, renounced her party affiliations on taking up office. In her constituency, she can campaign only as the Speaker seeking re-election, without the

In an exceptional display of gentlemanly behaviour, local Conservatives and Liberal Democrats have refrained from opposing Miss Boothroyd and are even helping with her campaign.
Thus the Speaker finds her-

backing of the Labour machine.

self in the curious position of being proposed and seconded by two sworn political foes: Roland Vernon, Labour's constituency chairman, and Ray Partridge, his Tory opposite number.

Mr Partridge, 71, says it

er. With refreshing candour, he adds: "We wouldn't win the seat anyway; it's been a Labour stronghold for years. It would be a waste of money.

In a spartan first-floor room in Oldbury, one of a cluster of former manufacturing towns that make up West Bromwich West, Doug Parrish, Miss Boothroyd's agent, is sorting through posters and leaflets.

He is a member of the allparty committee - Friends of the eaker, also known as Betty' Backers - set up to run her campaign. At the inaugural meeting recalls David Warburton, the committee's director, members faced a problem. What campaign colour should Miss Boothroyd adopt? Labour red

was out of the question.

was a bit funereal," he says. "Someone proposed West Bromwich Albion's colours, but they play in Tory blue. So in the end we decided on a nice parliamentary green. Let's hope Sinn Fem and the Green Party. don't stand. "In fact, the only candidate fighting the seat is from

an extreme right-wing splinter party, the National Democrats. Miss Boothroyd, defending a 7,830 majority, says the neces-sity to avoid political statements makes this, her 12th election campaign, the most difficult so far. "But I am gratified that there is so much goodwill towards me locally," she says. Despite parliament's dissolution, the Speaker's duties mean she will not be in the constituency until late next week.

Wednesbury Conservative Club. But while the politicians are competing to be nice to one another, some voters are disgruntled that they cannot support a party. In the seat held by the Speaker, the embodiment of parliamentary democracy, the electorate is effectively disenfranchised. "It's not fair; we're not given a choice," said Dorothy Spooner, an elderly Conservative voter. "No disre-

spect to Betty, but if she stays Speaker for a while, we'll never have another vote." Perhaps the happiest person in West Bromwich West at the moment is Mr Partridge. Sitting in his living-room under a picture of the Queen, he says: "For the first time in 50 years, I'll be voting for the winning candidate

in a general election."



Thatcher alters history with 'slip of the tongue' With a TSB **Cash Gift Mortgage** Christian Wolmar Westminster Correspondent "Ah, but I voted against it," and this was reported in some of today's newspapers. Baroness Thatcher attempted to rewrite a little bit of history In fact, Lady Thatcher, who you could get up was by then a member of the when she wrongly told a group of reporters this week that she House of Lords, did not vote both your arms and perhaps against the Bill as it passed to £6,000 to spend

had voted against the Maas-tricht treaty Bill in 1993. a stern lecture on Europe to the

On Wednesday, while giving press during an election visit at Aldershot football ground, she was interrupted by The Independent who asked her why she had signed the Single European Act. "That was about creating a Common Market."

But when it was pointed out that her successor had signed the Maastricht treaty, she said:

through the Lords. The Second Reading of the Bill, after a two day debate in early June, was passed unopposed. However, when it came to the Third Reading, held on 20 July 1993, Lady Thatcher is not recorded as having voted, although some of her Eurosceptic pals such as Lord Tebbit and Lord Rees-Mogg did oppose the Bill. It was

passed by a majority of 141-29.

During the debate on the Third Reading, Lady Thatcher did indeed outline her objec-

tions. She told the House that over the Single European Act "we got our fingers burnt. Do not go back to that same fire with a much bigger treaty with many more powers and get

your head burnt as well". Her speech was clearly strongly against the Bill and she voted for an amendment which would have created a referendum on the treaty but which was heavily defeated. However, on the final vote, she was not in the chamber and there is no record in Hansard of Lady Thatcher voting on it.

Lady Thatcher is in the middle of a round Britain tour aimed at generating support for the Conservatives which she will

Hong Kong. She launched the tour with a series of events in the South, including visits to a garden centre, a plastics factory and a school and last night she was welcomed by enthusiastic supporters at the endorsement meeting for John Marshall, in Finchley and Golders Green, which has taken in

her old seat of Finchley. A spokeswoman for Lady Thatcher said yesterday, after checking the relevant Hansards. "It was a slip of the tongue. Well spotted. Lady Thatcher did speak robustly on the debate on Maastricht but she did not vote against it." The Lady is, at last, for turning.



### Business stars fail screen test as Labour reels out its video

Paul McCann Media Correspondent

When the Conservative Party held a press conference on Wednesday to give a preview of its first party election broadcast, its vast press centre at Conser-vative Central Office in Smith Square dwarfed the four journalists who turned up.

The same could not be said yesterday, when Labour's preview was attended by six times as many reporters. The reason was summed up by one who wanted to be there "when the next Jennifer's Ear breaks", referring to Labour's 1992 broadcast about the two-tier National Health Service that ended in a debacle about who the real Jennifer was.

All this attention had quite an effect on Labour's chief spindoctor, Peter Mandelson, When the Mail men asked for a transcript of the broadcast he told them it had already been sent to Conservative Central Office, implying there would be no need for the journalists to do the Tories' bidding. He also



Labour of love: Anita Roddick appearing in the video

continued his spat with The Daily Telegraph's political editor, George Jones. When Mr Jones raised his hand, Mr Mandelson asked him what he wanted. In November Mr Jones walked out of a Labour press conference aiter being baited by Mr Mandelson as a Conservative stooge, When the *Independent* asked about the industrial-relations

record of business people chosen by Labour to star in its broadcast last night the question was dismissed, even though one of the stars, Sir Terence Conran, was called a "medieval despot" by the leader of the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union (MSF) last year. The broadcast starred the Granada chief executive, Ger-

ry Robinson, Sir Terence, founder of Habitat and Anita Roddick, of the Body Shop. "If you look at what Tony Blair has done in actually creating New Labour, it is a phenomenal change," said Mr Robinson, while the camera filmed him being interviewed on a television in one of his rental shops. "I have no doubt at all in having set out very clear objectives for Labour in government that Tony Blair will also

Sir Terence was in dispute with the Manufacturing Science and Finance Union (MSF) last year because, as chairman of the Design Museum in Loudon, he refused to recognise it, even although a majority voted to negotiate terms of employ-

deliver that."

ment through the MSF. Roger Lyons, MSF secretary, said last year: "The Conran image is of a soft sofa in a shop window but the barsh reality is of a medieval despot. There is a climate of fear ... at the Design Museum which is ill at ease with the culture of a museum and the arts."

المكذا من الأصل







The Tory lie machine is now moving up a gear, so it is vitai that we move up a gear in our positive campaigning. The contract is the key to that - Tony Blair

I did not know before the last election how long and how deep the recession would be. I said at the last election I did not intend to put up taxes, I had no plans to put up taxes, nor did I -

Yesterday, as the Prime

Minister continued to claim that the tax burden has not

risen, the Institute for Fiscal

Studies confirmed what ordinary British families al-

ready knew to be the case:

it's not fair; we're not given

a choice. No disrespect to

never have another vote -

Speaker Betty Boothroyd, who is standing unopposed

The degree of co-operation

Liberal Democrats Is specif-

ically and exclusively on

constitutional issues. On

everything else we are up

Kennedy

front competitors - Charles

they are paying more -Margaret Beckett

Betty, but if she stays

Dorothy Spooner, con-stituent of Commons

that there has been be-

tween Labour and the

مكذا من الأصل

# Kings of spin fight for total control



Political Correspondent

At 8.17am yesterday, the Treasury minister Michael Jack was tackling tough questions on Radio Four's Today programme over his party's tax plans.

Ten minutes later, journalists gathering for Labour's morning press conference were handed printed statement from the shadow Chancellor, Gordon Brown. "This morning," it said, Michael Jack, Treasury minister, refused to say how the Conservatives would pay for their commitments."

The speed of the reaction was not exceptional. In this election, more than ever before, swift rebuttal and tight control are the key words of the parties' media strategies.

Special units run by both Labour and the Conservatives are there to ensure that no claim roes uncontradicted, no change of stance undetected, no opportunity missed.

And the strategy does not end there. Early morning briefings are carefully controlled. Earlier this week Mr Brown's press officer, Charlie Whelan, was filmed giving increasingly frantic hand signals to his boss as an tained: BBC or ITN with the



Spin kings: Alastair Campbell, Blair's press secretary, making sure things go smoothly while, above left, Charlie Whelan signals time up

event over-ran: two fingers for first question, other broadcasttwo more questions, then one finger, then a throat-cutting editors next. Tabloids and oth-

Spin doctors sit or stand at the back, pointing out the whereabouts of favoured journalists and preparing to add their own briefings at the end. They help to ensure that the hierarchy of the press is mainers and broadsheet political er assorted hacks take pot luck but usually find that Brian Mawhinney is by far the most even-handed in his chairing of the Conservatives' briefings.

Even the least favoured journalists do get to ask questions, though they do not always get answers. Peter Hitchens of the

Express, who had clearly turned up at Labour's briefing yesterday to cause trouble, protested that his question about Mr Blair's choice of school for his children had not been met head-on.

Mr Blair responded that he had been kind in even taking the question, and added: "Try to contain yourself, otherwise we

The number of politicians who speak at such meetings is strictly limited.

The anchormen - and they are all men - are usually Tony Blair and Gordon Brown for Labour, with Robin Cook making the odd appearance, John Major and Brian Mawhinney for the Conservatives, with Michael Heseltine bringing up

Labour seems to have a "statutory woman" policy: there is always one on the platform, but her main contribution is to read a prepared statement. On one occasion Margaret Beckett appeared but did not say a word, and on another Ann Taylor's statement was not read at all, but handed out afterwards. The Conservatives and Liberal Democrats are not so fastidious. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

beginning to find a pattern. The Liberal Democrats, who kick off at 8am each day, try to set the tone with a statement on policy - education, crime and health so far this week.

Labour always attack the always attack Labour but the

Does Martin Bell know that being shot down in Bosnia is as nothing compared to be-Tories but follow the agenda of ing hunted down by the the day while the Conservatives

The substance of the briefings

British press? - Neil Hamilton The evidence of wrongdoing endures and disqualifies Mr Hamilton as an

appropriate person to be a Member of Parliament – Martin Bell "I have been a Labour supporter, a socialist, all my

life. But what it comes down to is the issue of trust, and I believe the Liberal Democrats are more trustworthy now than Labour - Agony aunt Anna Raebum explaining why she will be voting Lib Dem

Compiled by Sam Coates

### Party squabbles turn off women, say Lib-

Women voters are being turned off the general election by the to be turned off by the "cruel" endless inter-party squabbling, the Liberal Democrats claimed

Politicians risked alienating women into not voting at all if the dehates failed to address the issues which mattered to them, the party said.

Veteran campaigner Shirley were doing their best to be hon- Bob Dole because the Democ-Williams said she was "deeply worried" that women appeared and "adversarial" style of politics displayed so far.

On the doorsteps, they were keen to discuss policy, particularly education and the NHS, but that was not what was happening on the national stage. Baroness Williams said they

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est. "You can't get better services without paying for them one way or another. It's an inescapable, difficult choice." She pointed to what hap-

pened in the America presidential elections to highlight the importance of women's votes. Bill Clinton had 18 per cent

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rats had stressed the issues which mattered to women - education, health and the com-

Women won the election for Clinton. The difference between America and Britain lay in the

number of women in poverty. "[We] won't pass by those men and women, but particularly women, who are badly paid and desperate to make ends Baroness Williams said: meet who have been forgotten in this election.

Lord Holme, the party's campaign manager, said the number of women among the "don't more support among women. Liberal Democrats' determi-knows" and undecideds was than his Republican opponent nation not to neglect the large "extraordinarily high". Nearly

two-thirds of those yet to decide

"The danger is that some are so antagonised by the Punch and Judy show that they are not voting," he said. Aina Khan, a Muslim solici-

Ilford South, said that when she most torn in loyalties." She was out canvassing, she was encountering the problem of the nobody actually knew how anyhead of the household dictating one voted in a secret ballot.

how members of a family voted, particularly among ethnic minorities in her constituency.

"Nearly always the women will say, 'My husband will want me to vote Labour', and they have an instinct to vote Libertor and Lib-Dem candidate in al Democrat and they are alsaid she stressed to them that

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### Chelsea's charmer bides his time for the canter to victory



Alan Clark was at a pensioners' forum in his new constituency of Kensington and Chelsea. He

sion plan which in 20 years ... A voice at the back cut in, "we will all be dead, try again'

YAUXHA' L ASTRA

79th

periencing difficulties with rising rents. One asked if Clark

Yes, I understand landlords have a lot of problems ...

hall did not think too badly of

Some say Mr Clark is taking State doing that. He is not exstomping the streets in the he to the election, or atPhotograph: Peter Macdiamid

tending too many meetings. He took off to Scotland over Easter, and his next public walkabout? "Well it could be next Wednesday, or perhaps the Wednesday after that," said Barbara Lord, his agent.

Yesterday, he was apparently concentrating on his evening adoption meeting at Chelsea town hall - from Saltwood, in Kent. He has not bothered overmuch with the local papers either, sending all three of them copies of the one letter.

It could all, of course, be a misunderstanding - like his standing up to the military top brass at hinchtime on Tuesday. Or perhaps if one has inherited one of the safest Tory seats in the country, there is no need to try too hard.

Kensington and Chelsea is true blue through and through. The new constituency was created by merging Sir Nicholas Scott's Chelsea with Dudley ishburn's Kensington. Most of the Labour wards were hived off to a neighbouring constituency.

Mr Clerk's notional majori-

on the new boundaries is 21, 899. Labour would need a swing of 26 per cent to win. Although a recent London Evening Standard poli for the capital put Labour 32 points ahead, even the most dichard Opposition activist would acknowledge that this is one Tory fortress which will not be breached.

On Sunday, Mr Clark will be 69 years old. His predecessor, Sir Nicholas Scott, who fell from grace after falling down in the street following a party, was five years younger. The wounds caused during that lingering political death and the subsequent fight for succession still have not fully healed. Mrs Lord, who used to be Sir Nicholas's agent said: "It was a terrible time and it did the party an awful lot of harm. I think a lot of people behaved very hypocritically towards Nick Scott."

Asked about Mr Clark, Mrs Lord says all the right public. supportive things (with the pro-viso "don't forget I have to keep my job at the end of this") and

adds: "Even if people were sur-prised that Mr Clark came for this seat, the result proves be was right. Of course he will win, even if there is a large swing nationally against the party, we

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cannot lose this."
Mr Clark described his last Conservative association, Ph-mouth Sutton, as "boring, pet-ty, malign. clumsy, consp-iratorial, and parochial". He has made no secret of his antipathy for constituency work.

At his selection meeting for

Kensington and Chelses he said, according to someone who was present: "If you choose me I shall be grateful to you for the rest of my life."

Now he says: "I am not tak-ing anything for granted, I shall fight hard for people here. Peo-ple are so nice to me. They cross the road and wind their windows down in traffic jams. I am extremely fortunate to have been

Robert Atkinson, 43, who h the Labour candidate and leader of the Opposition in the council said: "The more Alan" Clark opens his mouth, the more votes I shall get. I could not believe what he said at that pensioners' meeting about reats and landlords.

"I have been challenging him for debates in public meetings, but he kept on trying to duck out. At one stage he said he would dehate with me wheat Blair debates Major. I could only respond by making the chicken noise. Now he has agreed to a debate, but says he cannot find the time in his diary. I don't know what he does don't seem to know. He cer-

At World's End, next to one of the very few Labour en-Smithers, who says he is "old Labour" said: "This is a selfish area, and Alan Clark should get on very well here. Have I seen him? I think you have more chance of seeing Lord Lucan riding Shergar down the King's



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### **AROUND THE REGIONS**

### Personality key to Isles' clash The Shetland Times

While election battles over sleaze and policy changes rage in the rest of Britain, or at least that part of it represented in the national media, Shetland has been mercifully free of indignant Tory wives and head-less chickens. In this, as in so many other things, it is not like the rest of the country. A majority of just over 5,000

would not usually be considered a safe one. But in Britain's most northerly constituency, Orkney and Shetland, it is different.
In 1992, with an electorate of just under 32,000, such a ma-

jority meant Liberal Democrat MP Jim Wallace romped home with a robust 24 per cent lead.
The Conservatives and

Labour came in second and third with 22 and 20 per cent of the vote. The SNP mustered just 11 per cent. It was no surprise. The islands have been a Liberal Democrat stronghold

Despite their geographical proximity, Orkney and Shetland are quite different. Orkney is green, flat and agri-cultural. Shetland, although made rich by the oil boom, is built on fishing, and the Shei-land Times' letters pages have seen furious exchanges on the question of withdrawal from the Common Fisheries Policy over the past months.

Stealing the political head-lines so far has been the Rock the Vote campaign, quick off the mark in trying to get young people to use their influence.

Other issues which matter to Shetlanders range from health and education to transport. which has burgeoned in importance over the past year.

alarmed by what they see as a steady erosion of air transport to and from the isles. Twelve months ago, three companies Now there is just one, which is the subject of complaints about

delays and high prices.
Indeed, Conservative cardidate Hope Anderson found he could only get a round trip from Orkney to Shetland at the time he wanted by going via

Aberdeen and paying a hefty
£305 for the privilege.
Other candidates are James
Paton for Labour, Willie Ross
for the SNP and Christian
Wharton for the Natural Lay Party. And last week France Adamson unexpectedly con-firmed he would stand for the

Referendum Parsy: Many Shetlanders vote ospersonality rather than policies and seem to feel that Mr Wal lace has earned his spurs as a hardworking constituency MI through the oil boom years, the Orkney child abuse case and the

Braer oil spill.
Believing Shetland is special they want an MP who can rep resent the islands effectively "Better the devil you know seems to be the feeling.

Dawn Thompson
The Shetland Time

المكذا من الأصل

FORD ESCORT

THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA... AGAIN

84th

# The CIA's bungle in Baghdad

Last year George J Tenet headed a US bid to destroy Saddam. 300 people died when it failed  $\dots$  and next week he gets promoted. **Patrick** Cockburn reports



n five days George J Tenet, Deputy Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, will appear before the Sen-ate Intelligence Committee in Washington to be confirmed as Director of the agency, which has thousands of employees and an annual budget of \$30bn (£18bn).

Mr Tenet, 44, an affable former Senate staffer, is expected to survive the hearings with ease, which is surprising, since he presided last year over one of the most disistrous operations in the history of the CIA.

It took place in Iraq and by the time it ended last September some 300 Iraqis, most of them in the pay of the CIA and some at the hands of those who were, were dead. They died because of a failed CIA plan to foment a military coup against Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi leader, whom it believed was weakened by dissent within his own family. To carry out its plan the CIA used an Iraqi opposition group, the Iraqi National Accord (INA), which claimed to have many supporters in the Iraqi army and intelligence services.

But President Saddam struck last June, before the coup was launched. His securiof whom were executed, or died under torty forces arrested hundreds of officers, many ture. Two months later the Iraqi leader sent his tanks into Iraqi Kurdistan, rolling up a vast CIA network established after the end

of the Gulf war. Iraqi intelligence was triumphant. As CIA operatives were evacuated to Guam. the CIA officer in charge of the INA op-eration in Amman, the Jordanian capital, received a telephone call from Baghdad from a man who asked for him by name. In the conversation which followed, according to a Washington source familiar with the intelligence world, the caller, pre-sumably an Iraqi security officer.

edge of the CIA's plan for a coup in Iraq and the names of those involved. He concluded by suggesting the CIA pack its bags and

go back to Langley, its head-quarters outside Washington. The overthrow of Saddam Hussein had been the agency's ambition since Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990. But in May 1995, plans to get rid of the Iraqi leader received a boost when John Deutch, formerly the deputy Defense Secretary, be-

came Director of the CIA. the unmasking of Akirich Ames, a long-time member of the agency, as a Russian spy, the agency was desperate for a success. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the only target in the world whose elimination would help rebuild its reputation was

Saddam Hussein. The CIA normally refuses to comment on operational matters. But a Washington source says that when Mr Dentch told members of the agency's Operations Directorate who were experienced in Iraqi affairs about his plans to overthrow President Saddam

they rated the chances of success as low. Despite their misgivings, the Washington formightly newsletter Counterpunch says other officers were found "ready and willing to carry out the appointed task. Their champion on the seventh floor of the CIA headquarters at Langley was George Tener, then Deputy Director of the CIA."

1990 Saddam Hussein invades Kuwait. CIA starts to give support to

1991 After Gulf war and Kurdish upris-

ing Saddam Hussein loses control of

his three northern provinces forming

Iraqi Kurdistan. They become haven

1994-96, The Iraqi National Accord

(INA), composed of former Iraqi offi-

class and soldiers and backed by CIA.

engages in bombing campaign

traci opposition groups.

tor CIA-backed dissidents.

Mr Tenet's background was on Capitol Operation overthrow: The countdown to a calamitous coup attempt



gence at the National Security Council. When Mr Deutch brought him to the CIA as Deputy Director in the summer of 1995 he had all the skills of a Washington civil servant. But these were of little use in the treacherous world of Iraqi politics.
It seemed a good moment to renew the

attack on President Saddam. Within months of Mr Deutch and Mr Tenet taking over the CIA, the traqi leader's two sons-in-law, Lt Gen Hossein Kamil and Col Saddam Kamil, fled to Jordan. In Amman they denounced their father-in-law and said they had escaped because they feared. Uday, the President's murderous elder son. King Hussein, once closely allied to the Iraqi leader, turned on his old friend in

**←** Officers were found ready and willing to carry out the task of overthrowing President Hussein. Their champion, on the seventh

Baghdad. Kamran Karadaghi, an Iraqi com-

floor of of the CIA headquarters at Langley, was George Tenet 9

ame Director of the CIA.

In the wake of the scandal surrounding mentator, says: "The CIA convinced King to get \$2,000, but Adnan [his command-neumasking of Akirich Ames, a long-time that he should only support the ing officer] gave us \$1,000."

Iraqi National Accord." The INA was allowed to set up its own lavishly-equipped equipment. At a supply dump meant to contend to the set up its own lavishly-equipped. headquarters in Amman.

In January 1996, according to US press reports never denied by the Administration, President Bill Clinton covertly authorised 56m in aid for the INA. A similar or greater amount of money was given by Sandi Arabia and other Arab states. A meeting of American, British, Jordanian and Saudi intelligence officers in Saudi Arabia, also in January, decided that the INA was a suitable vehicle through which to recruit Iraqi officers willing to overthrow Saddam.

Perhaps only intelligence officers would have thought the INA really stood a chance against the Iraqi leader.

The INA was set up in 1990 by Iyad Monmed Alawi, once a member of the ruiing Iraqi Baath party who fled to London in 1971. It sought to attract Iraqi army and

against civilian targets in Baghdad

1995 John Deutch, former US Deputy Defence Secretary, confirmed as direc-

tor of CIA. Committed to overthrow of

Husseln's son-in-law, flees to Jordan. CIA persaudes King Hussein to allow

INA to set up headquarters in Amman.

1996 in January President Clinton

Saddam Hussein. Brings with him George J Tenet as deputy director. In August Lt Gen Hussein Karnet, Saddam

and other tracticities.

pposition groups said it will a was riddled with Iraqi government spies. cial aid to us.

There were other flaws in the ClA's proégé. For several years the National Accord had been sending bombs to Baghdad and other traci cities from its bases in Iran Rundistan. The aim was to show the INAs foreign financial backers that the organisation had a long reach. One bomb went off in a ma. Another, according to the Iraqi official press, exploded in 1994 outside the office of al-humhurisya newspaper, killing

a child and injuring 13 people.

Iraq issued no figures for the total number of fragis killed and wounded by the INA bombers. But one opposition member said: "I estimate that more than 100 civilians have been killed by the bombs in Baghdad in the last three or four years."

Surprisingly, a great deal is known about the details of the INA's bombing campaign. This is because in early 1996 Abu Amneh al-Khadami, their chief bomb-maker, sat down in front of a video camera in his office in the Knrdish city of Sulaymaniyah, to complain that his superior officer had kept him short of money and supplies and was working with Iraqi intelligence.

Abu Amneh sent copies of his video to Iraqi opposition leaders abroad, one of whom gave a copy to The Independent, which published excerpts. Abu Amneh was very much a gun for hire. At one moment he complains: "We blew up a car and we were supposed

He gripes at the lack of bomb-making equipment. At a supply dump meant to contain 2,000kg of explosives, he had received only 50kg, the man in charge saying the rest had been stolen. He says: "I had to build lack to the lack of the la to buy clocks from the soukh [market] and

turn them into timers." There are frequent references to American involvement. Abu Amneh says he was recruited by an INA official who got him released from prison – he had apparently tried to kill a member of another opposi-tion party – in Salahudin, the headquarters of the Kurdistan Democratic Party. He quotes the official as saying: "I made the American in Washington telephone Massoud Barzani [the Kurdish leader] to say

"Let Abu Anneh out of prison." There is some evidence that the CIA was nervous about the bombing campaign. At one moment he says the US thought he was

gives \$6m in aid to INA. Aim is to fo-

ment military coup against Iraql

leader. In June Saddam Hussein

strikes first. As many as 80 officers

may have been executed or died un-

der torture. In August Iraqi tanks intervene in Kurdish civil war, catching and

killing 120 members of CIA-backed

1997 John Deutch steps down from

CIA where he is likely to be replaced.

by the director-designate, George

dissident group.

"too much the terrorist" and his superior would not allowing the granto acts o

Abu Amneh's obsession, apart from money, is that the INA was full of Iraqi government agents. His suspicions were soon to be born out. But in the early months of 1996, basking in the support of King Hussein and the CIA in his new headquarters in Amman, Mr Alawi, the INA leader, was confident of success. "We think that any uprising should have at its very centre the armed forces," he told the Washington Post in a interview published on 23 June last year. "We don't preach civil war. On the contrary, we preach controlled, co-ordinated military uprising, supported by the people, that

The exact date of the article is impor-

tant, because the INA later claimed the article's revelations about its CIA support led to a pre-emptive strike by President Saddam before they could launch their coup. In fact, the Iraqi leader appears to have

known their every move. In one statement the INA later admitted he had started to arrest suspected officers on 20 June, even before Dr Alawi boasted of his planned coup. As the purge in Baghdad gathered pace INA communiqués acquired a panicky note. They report that Qusai, Saddam Hussein's second son, was heading a special committee in charge of interrogations

and that two officers have already died under torture. Another 100 army officers were under arrest, facing death or imprisonment.

There was worse to come. One Iraqi commentator believes that the ease with which Saddam Hussein crushed the impending coup in June gave him the confidence to send his tanks into Iraqi Kurdistan in September for the first time since 1991. He captured the Kurdish capital, Arbil. The CIA was caught by surprise. It failed to warn the Iraqi National Congress [INC], another opposition group backed by the CIA, of the Iraqi advance. "We believe we lost 100 people killed at Qushteppe [in the front line], says Ghanim Jawad, a veteran of the INC. "Another 19 people were executed in one of our offices in Arbil."

For the militants of the INA and the INC

there was no alternative but flight from Kur-distan. Almost hysterical with fear and clutching their sub-machine guns they waited in Salahudin for their evacuation. CIA officers who had helped organise them were said to have already fled. In Jordan King Hussein has today returned to more friendly relations with Iraq.

A total of 300 Iraqis may have died in the CIA-backed bomb attacks on Baghdad, the failed coup and the massacres in Kurdistan. John Deutch is said to feel that the strength of the INA was misrepresented to him. He resigned as CIA Director after Mr Clinton refused to make him Defense Secretary. As he stepped down, Mr Deutch gave a ringing endorsement to George Tenet, who, with him, shares the responsibility for last year's débâcle.

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THE REGION

# Berlin court exposes Tehran's terrorism



Anti-Tehran protesters in

For the first time in a Western judicial system, Iran's leaders were held directly responsible for international terrorism vesterday when a German court ruled that they had ordered the murders of three Iranian Kurdish opposition activists in Berlin. The adgment immediately plunged German and European Union relations with Iran into crisis.

other's countries, then the EU issued a statement from The Hague inviting member states to withdraw their ambassadors Chancellor Helmut Kohl's

Iran's foreign ministry re-jected the Berlin court's ruling German and Iranian ambassadors were recalled from each as inspired by "counter-revoluuonary elements" and "hostile

Zionist propaganda". However, Iranian opposition leaders in exile hailed the judgment as a devastating blow to the Iranian

Germany was ending its "critical dialogue" with Iran - a policy that

stressed cautious co-operation

rather than confrontation - for

the foreseeable future.

Ambassadors recalled as Iranian hit squad found guilty, writes Tony Barber mittee for Special Operations" in Tehran had approved the unnamed Iranian diplomats from Germany. Officials said

September 1992 killings at a Greek restaurant in Berlin. Crucially, it declared that the committee's members included Iran's president and paramount

spiritual leader.
Although the court avoided naming names, it was unmistakably pointing an accusing fin-ger at President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Aya-tollah Ali Khameini. Iran's intelligence chief, Ali Fallahiyan, for whom German prosecutors have issued an arrest warrant,

in the murders. Judge Frithjof Kubsch im-

posed life sentences on Kazem Darabi, an Iranian living in Berlin, and Abbas Rhayel, a Lebanese, for what the prosecution argued were cold-blood-ed contract killings. Two other Lebanese men, Youssef Amin and Mohamed Atris, were jailed for 11 years, and five years

and three months respectively. Sadegh Sharafkandi, the exiled leader of the Iranian Democratic Party of Kurdistan, two other party activists and a trans-

was also implicated by the court lator were shot dead when a masked hit squad opened fire Mykonos restaurant in Berlin. The Iranian political leadership ordered this crime," Judge Kub-

His ruling lent weight to the view, passionately held by the United States, that Iran's Islamic leaders have long been sponsors of international terrorism. The US State Department was quick yesterday to praise the court's judgment as courageous and objectively fair. Germany and other Euro-

pean Union countries had de-fended their "critical dialogue" with Iran on the grounds that US allegations of Iranian state terrorism rested on uncertain evidence. Germany has an interest in not falling out completely with

Iran because it is Iran's biggest
Western trading partner.
EU foreign ministers are to meet in Brussels on 29 April and could impose economic sanctions on Iran. However, the diplomatic expulsions suggest that Germany places a higher priority on evicting alleged undercover intelligence agents

from the Iranian embassy in Bonn, which is believed to serve as Tehran's European headquarters for espionage and op-crations against Iranian opposition movements.

Despite the row, both the German government and the opposition Social Democrats want to avoid a full break in diplomatic relations with Iran. Likewise, Iran's leaders value their ties with Germany and may limit their protests at the

court's judgment.

The avatollah indicated his desire to limit the damage late last year, when he told Iranians that the US and Israel, not Germany.

The final chapter: Former workers at the HMS Tamar

naval base reading 'White Ensign - Red Dragon' a

presence in Hong Kong, on the day of publication. The base, dating back to Victorian times, will soon be used again by the

Photograph: Reuter

o, West

### Reuters government also expelled four Navy hauls down White Ensign for the last time



**Stephen Vines** Hong Kong

Britain's last remaining naval base east of Gibraltar will finally be de-commissioned today when the First Sea Lord Admiral Sir Jock Slater presides over the hauling down of the White Ensign for the last time

in Hong Kong.
The confusingly named HMS Tamar base is now confined to part of Stonecutters Island, which has been transformed into a splendid new base for the incoming Chinese navy and, thanks to land reclamation, is

It was the Navy which seized Hong Kong for Britain and a on. a history of the Navy's presnaval captain. Sir Edward ence in Hong Kong, was Belcher, who first raised the

Union flag on Hong Kong's soil on 24 January 1841. "Our naval forbears were quite clever", says Lieutenant Commander Cliff Squibb, HMS Tamar's last commander. Fighting off pressure from the colonial government and the Army, the Navy tenaciously clung on to its dock and headquarters site right in the heart of town, occupying what must be the world's most expensive piece of real estate to be used as a naval base.

"The Navy has always been in Central (the name given to the financial district), we consider it our patch", says Commodore Peter Melson, whose book White Ensign - Red Dragpublished yesterday.



The base started life as a dockyard. HMS Tamar, which gave the base its name, was built in 1863 and was tied up alongside the dockyard and deployed as the naval headquarters. Tamar was scuttled in 1941.

in order to prevent it from being of use to the Japanese oc-

By the time the Japanese invaded Britain had moved all but two of the Hong Kong-based

which were considered to be more important.
As Britain steadily withdrew South China Sea (which had

its forces from East of Suez, the garrison, which numbered some 30,000 troops in the 1960s,

ceased to perform a regional role and concentrated on the defence of Hong Kong.

been a pestilence when the base was established) and growing problems with the snruggling of goods and the organised

The rise of piracy in the

nggling of illegal immigrants The dockyard was closed in from China, have made the quiet ones.

duced to three patrol vessels, the 19th century.

which will be sold to the Philippines, and, as from next week, only \$5 naval personnel, which will be whittled down to 65 just before Hong Kong is handed back to China on 1 July

It is a far cry from the days when Victoria Harbour bristled 1959, after which the base Navy's last years anything but with British fighting ships, which virtually controlled The naval presence is now re- China's southern coastline in

As well as British servicemen. the naval base gave rise to gen-erations of Chinese staff being introduced to the mysteries of English naval cuisine and the unique culture of the British

Navy, which is as far removed from everyday Chinese life as

the planet Mars. One of the oldest veterans of service to the Navy is 78-yearold Ng Muk-kam, known by the ratings as Side Purty Jenny. because she and a redoubtable band of women colleagues were employed clambering around the sides of ships paint-

ing and polishing them. Her succinct verdict on the state of the Navy is that the older ships were nicer but that the new ones are tidier and easier to clean.

"When I decommission Tamar", says Sir Jock, "in one sense it's very sad, but at the same time I regard it as the start of a new era". He points out that the modern Navy is far more self-sufficient, and no longer

requires fixed land bases. He hopes China will allow Britain to make naval visits to its old home in Hong Kong, though it is hard to believe the outgoing colonial power will be top of the visitors' list.

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### significant shorts

### Missing Israeli soldier found dead

An Israeli soldier who disappeared last year was found dead yesterday in a Palestinian village in the West Bank, the Israeli army said, adding that a cell of the Islamic militant group Hamas was responsible for the soldier's death.

Sharon Edri was last seen on 9 September at a hitchhiking post near his army base in central Israel.

AP - Jerusaler

### Albanian poli set for June

Sali Berisha, the Albanian President, was quoted as saying that parliamentary elections in the crisis-torn Balkan state would go shead, as planned, in June. "But," he told the
Austrian daily Die Presse, "... there is no real progress
because the [rebel] committees are still functioning."

A small advance unit of Italian troops will arrive in the
port of Durres today to pave the way for the deployment

of a multinational security force in Albania, the Italian news agency Ansa reported.

### **Denmark criticises China**

Denmark formally presented the United Nations Human. Rights Commission with a Western-backed resolution criticising China's rights record. The Danish delegation head, Tyge Lehmann, submitted a draft text co-sponsored by the United States and by 13 other countries, including European Union member states. Reuters – Ge

### Banana faces gay lawsuit

The former Zimbabwean president, Canaan Banana, has been sued for Z\$1.3 million (£7,000) in damages by an ex-police aide who accuses him of raping and forcing him into a homosexual relationship. Byron Hove, the lawyer acting for former police inspector Jefta Dube, confirmed he had filed a civil lawsuit on 25 March. Routers - Harare

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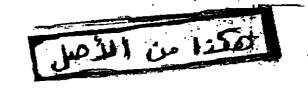
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### internationa

# Talks boost US hopes for Korean reunification For the last two years, the Young Sam, hinted that more to the forthcoming if

The United States Defence Secretary, William Cohen, pre-dicted the imminent reunification of the Korean peninsula yesterday morning, minutes after South Korean soldiers ex-North Korean patrol in the across a complex of meeting demilitarised zone (DMZ) rooms, observatories and pro-

"We're very close to the finishing line, seeing a united and free Korea," Mr Cohen told American soldiers of the United Nations Command at the truce village of Pammunjom, the only crossing-point along the DMZ, where troops of both changed warning shots with a sides openly face one another

read my lips I would hope they would see the futility of putting up signs that try to promote propaganda of a failed and failing system," he said.

Less than an hour earlier, 65 miles to the east, South Korean soldiers fired over the heads of soldiers of the Korean People's Army which had crossed into the southern sector of the

ing shots, before retreating. Minor violations of the DMZ are not uncommon, and the North provoked fury in Seoul last year when one of its submarines lauded commandos in the South, but it was the first time this year that live rounds had been exchanged.

end to the Korean War, the two sides may soon begin talks aimed at forging a permanent peace treaty for the peninsula. Next Wednesday, at a meeting in New York, North Korean diplomats have promised to present their reply to a proposal for four-way talks involving the two Koreas, the US and China.

DMZ. The half dozen North growing optimism that, 44 years For the last two years, the Korean troops returned warn-after the truce which brought an North has been suffering from severe food shortages which are said by international relief agencies to be on the verge of turning into a full-scale famine. On Monday the UN launched an appeal for \$126m (£77m) of food, agricultural supplies and medicine. South Korea delivered \$6m yesterday, as the country's President, Kim

Young Sam, hinted that more would be forthcoming if Pyongyang agreed to talks.

"Through the proposed meeting, North Korea will be

able to gain political stability and promote its economic in-terests," he told a meeting of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Seoul, "I urge North Korca to respond in a sincere manne

### vote for Indian coalition

Jan McGirk New Delhi

A confidence vote in the Indian parliament today will determine whether the 13-party coalition can remain in power. Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda refused all week to buckle under pressure to step aside after a key ally, the Congress party, withdrew support on

Easter Sunday.

Many doubt that Mr Gowda can shore up enough support for his left-leaning United Front to rule, now Sitaram Kesri, president of the Congress party, has turned on him. But the United Front has no intention of complying with Mr Kesti's demands that Congress form the next government. "No serious political party would change its leader under pressure from the outside," a United Front leader. Surject Singh, said last night. "It's final. We will go to the people.

For Mr Gowda to retain leadership today, either the right-wing Hindu Bharatitya Janata Party (BJP) must abstain from voting, which is unlikely, as they stand to gain most from the fall of the government, or renegade Congress party members must break ranks and side with him.

Congress, which backed the United Front coalition from the outside, was humiliated in elections last spring after corruption charges

were filed against party leaders.

Mr Kesri objects to the United Front's pursuit of allegedly corrupt officials within Congress. The former farmer from Karnataka is raking up dirt on the former Congress prime minister, Narasimha Rao, and Mr Kesri himself.

Mr Kesri blamed Mr Gowda's government for failing to stem the rise of the BJP, which now controls the Punjab and will take turns heading the state government of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state. He also protested against the Prime Minister's recent meeting with Bal Thackeray, head of the fundamentalist Shiv Scna (Shiva's Army) in Bombay.

Critics accuse Mr Kesri, 82. of outting his own survival ahead of his party, and there are fears that Congress may split over his brash gamble to unseat Mr Gowda. Questions about sleaze are still

unanswered. Mr Kesri may have imed his move to ward of investigations into his own finances; he had long been the Congress party treasurer and was thought to be above lining his own pockets when he was cited for "accumulating disproportionate assets" and then fined for income tax evasion.

Mr Kesri apparently fears the Prime Minister was plotting to frame him in a lurid murder trial. and reportedly confided this to lyoti Basu, a communist leader from Calcutta, and two other statesmen who attempted to broker a deal between the former allies.

After police questioned Mr Kesri about the kidnapping and brutal killing of his personal physician, Dr Surendra Tanwar, he was livid with Mr Gowda for allowing the investigation to be reopened. The doctor's body was found in a Delhi suburb in Octo-

According to Vinod Mehta, the editor of a newsweekly in the Indian capital, Congress "has jeopardised a widely popular budget. derailed a historic opportunity to mend relations with Pakistan and undermined investor confidence

### The incident comes amid Zairean rebellion: Belgium joins US in condemning crumbling regime clinging to power through military rule



### It's time to go, Western allies tell Mobutu

With Zaire's President Mobutu Sese Seko attempting to shore up his. crumbling regime by introducing a military government, his one-time allies in Belgium and the United States are making it clear that they now think it is time for him to go. Yesterday it was the turn of Belgium's Foreign Minister, Erik Derycke, to renounce publicly an old ally. Speaking in Brussels he said that Belgium - the colonial power in the former Congo -believed that Mr Mobutu had no fu-

"It is military dictatorship revisited, with a military man as prime minister and the parliament thrown

Belgium's announcement echoed statements on Wednesday by the White House spokesman, Mike Mc-Curry, and US State Department official Nicholas Burns.

"We have suggested that the era of Mobutism in Zaire is over because the status quo is no longer tenable, given the dire conditions that exist for the people of Zaire," Mr McCurry said in Washington. "It's clear we have to move beyond Mr Mobutu." France, the other member of the

rrance, the other member of the The veteran opposition leader and troiks of Western powers most idprime minister designate, Etienne volved with Zinic, his jet to respond Tablekell, was arrested and later reto the US and Belgian statements. leased, but only after Management to the US and Belgian statements. volved with Mobutu, France has offered Mr Mobutu diplomatac support against Laurent Kabila's six month old rebellion but has failed to infer-



vene directly to save him, as it did on several occasions in the past. Mr Mobutu seems to be backing himself into a military cul de sac. On Wednesday Mr Kabila's rebels over-ran Lubumbashi, Zaire's second city. The same day in the capital, Kinsa, government troops used tear gas to disperse opposition students demonstrating in defiance of the state of emergency declared by Mr Mobu-

inis: leased, but only after Mr Mobutu provided supply bases for the US-in- amnounced that he was using easer- and South Africa-backed Unita rebel gency powers to sack him and appoint movement in Angola. a former defence minister, General Likulia Bolongo, as his new premier.

acknowledged that, with the Cold War over, America no longer has any need to shore up Mr Mobutu's brutal and staggeringly corrupt regime. But with Mr Mobutu now abandoning even the pretence of civilian govermnent, the US has felt it necessary

to drive this point publicly home.

During the Cold War years Mr Mobutu became the West's principle ally in Africa. US financial and diplomatic support, together with military intervention from France and Belgium, rescued Mr Mobutu from several uprisings. In return, Mr Mobuta

For nearly three decades Mr Mobutu's Western allies were con-US diplomats have long privately tent to ignore his numerous faults.

In what came to be known as a system of kleptocracy - "rule by thieves" - Mr Mobutu and his cronies plundered Zaire's huge mineral wealth, squirrelling billions of dollars away in Swiss bank accounts. Meanwhile the colonial infrastructure collapsed.

Another reason for the US change of heart on Mr Mobutu is the growing alliance between Washington and the central African states of Rwanda and Uganda, which are closely linked to Mr Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire.

It is understood that the US has rocco to try and persuade the ailing Mr Mobutu that, after 32 years in rich Lubumbashi comes less than a week after rebels took the diamond capital of Mbuji-Mayi and gives Laurent Kabila effective control over Zaire's mineral wealth. Diplomats say that, having cut off Mr Mobutu's funds, Mr Kabila can now sit back and wait for the the regime to fall apart.

Yesterday, however, Mr Kabila vowed to continue the military advance until Mr Mobutu was deposed. Speaking in Goma on Wednesday, Mr Kabila said his forces would give the President three days to begin negotiating a handover of power, following which military acwould be take

"He can do it." Mr Kabila said. "He is tired and worn out, but he is

### Prodi staggers from the labyrinth to rescue Albania

First the good news. Italy will, as planned, lead the multina-tional peace-keeping force going into Albania next week. What's more, the Italian govemment looks like it might actually win today's confidence vote in the Chamber of Deputies and live to fight another day. Or another week. Long enough, anyway, to see the soldiers off and recover a portion of its wounded pride.

The bad news is that a major international foreign poliinitiative almost came to ief because of the chronic political instability of its most active advocate. As a result, Italy has abjectly failed in its attempt to be taken seriously by the rest of the international community

Andrew Gumbel on the fall-out from Italian political power games

and finds itself backsliding dan-gerously towards the bad po-litical habits of its past. For a while, with Albania tumbling ever further into anhoops that the Prime Minister, Romano Prodi, bad to jump archy and no other Western through on Albania to understand just how appalling Italian political life still is. Although the intervention force enjoyed the support of the overwhelmpower daring to stick its neck out, Italy looked like the right country in the right place at the right time to clear up the latest mess in the Balkans. The ing majority of political parties, it was opposed by the key Rifondazione Comunista. world forgot, however, that when it comes to anarchy - at least of the political variety which holds the balance of then Italy takes some beating, what with 55 post-war governpower in the Chamber of ments to its name and no clear

As it emerged that Rifon-dazione's "no" on Albania was sign that the Byzantine coalition-broking and endless pow-

er games of the past are even ed making waves of their own close to being eliminated. by introducing a rival motion on It's worth examining the the intervention force. If you want the force to be approved, they told Mr Prodi, you'll have to vote for our motion, not your own. And by the way, once you've done that, we think you ought to resign. By Tuesday evening it looked

as though both Mr Prodi and the Albanian enterprise were sunk. What saved them was a complex piece of "variable geometry", as the Eurocrats would call it. Thanks to a lastminute deal with the opposition, Mr Prodi managed to definitive, the opposition start- push a joint motion on the in-

tervention force through parliament on Wednesday night with only Rifondazione and a couple of other parties voting

Then, acknowledging the loss of his government majority, he went to the President, Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, to tender his resignation. President Scalfaro promptly sent him back to parliament for a confidence vote - one that Rifondazione had indicated it would support, thus saving Mr Prodi's bacon. The frustrating thing about the whole rotten spectacle is

that issues of substance, such as

Albania's future, have been

completely submerged by the petty dictates of power politics. Rifondazione Comunista issued long lists of reasons why they opposed the intervention force, but the deeper truth is they saw an opportunity to hold the government to ransom - not for the first time - and remind everyone just how indispensable they are.

While everyone else was staggering around parliament looking shell-shocked on Wednesday night, Rifon-dazione's irrepressible leader, Fausto Bertinotti, was having the time of his life discussing the finer points of his choice of suit and tie.

He is a man with a reputation for saying "no" to just

nose up to well-cut clothes.

The Albanian crisis is the most visible sign so far of the government's weakness, but far from the only one. Everything from privatisation policy to broadcasting reform has been slowed down or halted by Rifondazione's intransigence. Yesterday, Italy's industrialists took to the streets for the first time since 1962 to protest against the country's latest Maastricht-inspired austerity budget package. Their gripe: the government's decision - or rather Rifondazione's - to siphon money off company savings funds rather than make

any cuts in the welfare state.

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Jane Durham

### Laura Nyro

Some performers have a hard time dealing with the limelight and find a circuitous route to success. The American singersingwriter Laura Nyro was a perfect example of that syn-drome. Afflicted by chronic stage-fright, she never found more than a cult audience with her solo career, but when covered by the likes of Barbra Streisand, Frank Sinatra, Three Dog Night or Blood, Sweat and Tears, her songs effortlessly reached the American Top Ten in the late Sixties and early Seventies. Somehow, those reinterpretations brought her material closer to the audience's preoccupations.

Born Laura Nigro in 1947. she grew up in the New York borough of the Bronx. Her jazz-fan father tuned pianos and played trumpet and this precocious, unusual child soon sat at the keyboard and made up tunes to amuse herself. "I always sang, from the time I could make a noise, she told Life magazine in a 1970 interview. "And I always wrote. I wrote little poems and at about 8 or 9, I started writing little

songs."

Laura also read poetry and sang doo-wop with friends on street corners while attending the New York High School of the Performing Arts. This rather unexpected blend of styles and Italian-Jewish backgrounds soon blossomed into a most remarkable talent.

In 1966, Nyro signed with the album whose title would eventually prove more than prophetic. Ignored at the time of its release, the record contained an songs. By the end of 1969, the lumbia Records. The label was ly showcase for the production

One of the most brilliant con-

temporary Japanese artists, the

internationally acclaimed en-

graver Masuo Ikeda, is known

in Japan, rather disparagingly,

as a maruchi taranto ("multiple

talent"). The Japanese like

bounds of one speciality smacks

Ikeda was an artistic phenom-

enon who defied categorisation,

a stance that is usually a sign of

that quality frowned upon in

Ikeda started off life on the

wrong foot, by being born

abroad, in Mukden, China (now

known as Shenyang). After the

Second World War he was repa-

triated with his parents to

Nagano prefecture. Attending

school in Japan is always a

traumatic experience for chil-dren who have lived abroad and

known more liberal standards

of education. Masuo refused to

fit in. Disdaining standardised

syllabuses he plunged into the

delights of foreign literature -

Stendhal, Salinger, Sartre, Kafka, Camus, the Surrealists.

It was no wonder he twice

failed the stiff entrance exam-

inations for Tokyo Geidai (the

Tokyo University of the Arts).

So he set to teaching himself

how to draw and paint, then be-

gan attending the Nagano School of Art, from which he

managed to graduate in 1952.

Japan – originality.

their celebrities to stick to one was would answer: "My pro-category: to overstep the fession is Masuo Ikeda."

of frivolity and superficiality. and antique bookstores, art

West Coast vocal group Fifth Dimension had taken "Wedding Bell Blues" to the top of the US singles charts while Blood, Sweat and Tears reached No 2 with the immortal "When I Die". The following year Barbra Streisand recorded Nyro's "Stoney End" and reached the Top Ten on both sides of the Atlantic.

This success as a songwriter

put Nyro in Carole King's league but, unlike the compos-er of "Will You Love Me Tomorrow?", she never cut an album of Tapestry's calibre. Nyro's shyness and reluctance as a performer may have been the result of a harrowing LSD trip she underwent as a teenag-er. Or it may have been a con-sequence of her disastrously received performance at the Monterey Festival in 1967. Opting for a soulful, Vegas-style performance (complete with a trio of backing vocalists), hair down to her thighs and purple-lipsticked Nyro failed where Ja-nis Joplin, The Who and Jimi Hendrix made their mark and reputation.

Still, the New York talentbooker David Geffen was so impressed by a tape of the Monterey show that he gave up his job to become Nyro's manager (he would later oversee the careers of Joni Mitchell, Crosby, Stills, Nash And Young, Jackson Browne and The Eagles before setting up his own record label). In Joe Smith's Off the In 1966, Nyro signed with the Record collection of interviews breakthrough seemed in-Verve label and recorded More he admitted that she "was a very evitable but Nyro wasn't pre-Than A New Discovery, a début strange girl. But she was among the most talented people I've ever seen in my life."

Geffen quickly brought her to the attention of Clive Davis, who was then president of Co-

quarter, at the same time gain-

Despite his haphazard life style

he was always businesslike, and

when asked what his profession

Kanda is an area of modern

shops and print dealers, and the

his refusal to conform was re-

warded rather ironically by the

Mombusho (Ministry of Edu-

cation) Prize. One of the judges,

the German painter and en-graver Erwin Graumann, told

him: "If you go on living in this way, you will be spiritually dev-

astated. I advise you to start

painting in oils, so he followed

Graumann's advice, realising

that it was a better business

proposition to make prints, be-

cause he could sell many copies,

er for a painting. He also tried

traditional woodblock printing

(ukiyoo or "images of this float-

ing world") and serigraphy (silk

screen) techniques. Young

Japanese artists were begin-

ning to travel abroad again to

Paris, London and New York,

where Stanley Hayter was a

great inspiration, for he had

practising copperplate. Until then Masuo had been

ing experience and free models.

Masuo Ikeda



'Among the most talented people I've ever seen': Nyro in the words of David Geffen (left), 1968

trying to get hip and Nyro soon ined a roster including Bob Dylan, Santana, Spirit, Leonard Cohen and The Byrds. Her 1968 album, Eli and The 13th Confession, reflected her unconventional upbringing. It was well received and provided further hits for The Fifth Dimension ("Stoned Soul Picnic" and "Sweet Blindness") and Three Dog Night ("Eli's Coming"). The following year, New York Tendaberry (she was fond of

making up words), a brilliant collection fusing jazz and rock with her incredible voice and piano-playing made the Top Forty. A major commercial pared to make creative compromises and clashed with both Davis and Geffen (who'd sold her publishing to Columbia). After 1970's Christmas and the Beads of Sweat (an ear-

sketching portraits on the gone on to develop new was always on the move and streets of Kanda, the student processes. In London the spent two years in New York

processes. In London the

Swedish printmaker Birgit

Skiöld's studio in Charlotte

Street was always full of young

Japanese attracted by her re-

fined photo-etching experi-

ments and their links to poetry,

for Japan is a land where liter-

Soon Ikeda was a familiar fig-

ature and printing inhabit the

boyish frame that he was to re-

tain till the end of his life. He

started winning prize after prize

in the 1960s: the Governor of

Tokyo's Prize (1962), the Tokyo Museum of Modern Art Prize

(1964). In 1961 he had estab-

lished himself as a printmaker by winning the Grand Prize for

Printmaking at the Tokyo In-

ternational Biennale of Art,

but it was in foreign parts that

he achieved his greatest tri-

umphs: in 1961 the Prix d'Ex-

cellence at the Young Artists'

in 1965 the Grand Prix at the In-

ternational Print-making Bien-

nale in Ljubljana; in 1966, the First Prize at the International

Engraving Biennale in Cracow,

and first prizes at the Biennales

of Vienna and Venice, where he

was only the second Japanese

to win in this category, after Mu-

nakata Shiko in 1956. He was

the first Japanese to have a one-

man show at the New York Mu-

seum of Modern Art (1965). He

shed to the Isle of Elba, 1814; Louis

XVIII acceded to the throne of

France, 1814; Uganda was declared

a British Protectorate, 1894; Gustav

Hamel, aviator, flew from Dover to

Dunkirk and back nonstop, 1913; George Bernard Shaw's play Pyg-malion opened in London, 1914; the

Stresa Conference between Britain,

France and Italy began, 1935; the mu-sical show New Faces was first pro-

duced, London, 1940; a major "blitz"

air raid was made over Coventry by German aircraft, 1941; President

Truman relieved General Douglas

MacArthur of his command in the

Far East, 1951; the spacecraft Apol-to 13 blasted off from Cape Kennedy, 1970; a skeleton discovered in Berlin

was stated to be definitely that of Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, 1974; the first I ondon performance

1974; the first London performa

International Biennale in Paris;

same scrolls.

whole place is an education in ure in Western art circles, with

itself for a budding printmak- a voluminous Afro-style black

er. At the rather late age of 26 dandelion head of hair and

talents of Arif Mardin, who would later polish the Bee Gees white soul stylings), Nyro col-laborated with Labelle and released Gonna Take a Miracle, her tribute to the Sixties, which featured impeccable covers of "Dancing in the Streets" (originally by Martha and the Vandellas), "Da Doo Ron Ron" (The Crystals), and "You Really Got a Hold Of Me" (Smokey Robinson and the Miracles).

This unexpected move closed the chapter on the early part of her career and Nyro retired from the music business. As she declared in a rare interview to Musician magazine, "When I was very young, everything hap-pened so quickly for me. I hadn't really contemplated being famous. I was writing music, I was just involved in the art of it at that young age. Then, when it all happened, I didn't know how to handle it." She moved to New England,

spent two years in New York

(1965-66), then settled for a year

In 1976 he again stepped out of his category and published his

first work of fiction, Eige-kai ni

sasaguru ("Homage to the Aegean"). It won the "New Man" literary award and in

1977 the prestigious Akuta-gawa Prize. Ikeda made his

own film of the book in the

Aegean and in Italy. It was a soft

porn movie, quite harmless by

present-day standards, in which

the Italian porn star La Cicci-

film would be regarded in Japan

not just as provocative but also

as obscene, because the strict

censorship laws there forbid any

show of pubic hair. He had to

scratch out 50 "pubic areas" be-fore the film could be released.

Ikeda quite rightly complained

in court that such mutilations

were the real obscenities. It was

during the filming of this nov-

el that Ikeda met his lifetime

companion, the well-known vi-

two more novels, Mado kara

Roma ga mieru ("From My

Window I have a View of

Rome") and Manhattan Rhap-

sody. Ikeda began to appear on

television quizzes and late-night

chat shows in which he dis-

played his new artistic venture,

abstract pottery. With Yoko, he

talked freely about his person-

He followed this work with

olinist Yoko Sato.

Ikeda must have known the

olina makes an appearance.

in Berlin (1967).

enty-five's ironically-titled Smile reflected on the break-up of her marriage and her disillusion with the music industry. Three years later, Nested saw her muse soar again; "American Dreamer" and "My Innocence" proved she hadn't lost her sense of wonder. In 1984, she cut Mother's Spiritual and in 1989, released Live At The Bottom Line, a concert recording which contained some of her classics and

married, had a child. And, when

new songs with an ecological message ("The Wild World").
"When I write my music, I see all the rivers flowing - sensual, spiritual, religious, animal, intellectual," she said. Following 1993's Walk The Dog And Light The Light, Nyro played concerts in London two years ago. Her spellbinding three-octave range was still intact and the influence

avoided.

they returned and from 1957

their house, Scotsburn, be-

her childhood home obliter-

ated but it was a turning-point

sion and an open-mindedness

which could on occasion startle.

she acquired an extraordinary knowledge which she gener-ously shared with students,

ie Lee Jones, Patti Smith, Kate Bush and Suzame Vega was as

the fancy took her, she still made records. Nineteen sevobvious as ever. Stoned Soul Picnic: The Best of Laura Nyro, a 34-song retro-spective, was issued a few weeks ago on Columbia's Legacy label and earned the singer plaudits the world over. A tribute album for Profile Records was already in the works when her death from ovarian cancer was

A line from "And When I Die" forms a fitting epitaph: "I swear there is no heaven and I pray there is no hell." Laura Nyro had become a pantheist and believed in the power of

Pierre Perrone

Laura Nigro (Laura Nyro), singer, songwriter, planist, gui-turist: born New York 18 October 1947; married (marriage she'd had on the likes of Rick- bury, Connecticut 9 April 1997.

scholars and friends alike. Her interests ranged from pre-history to the early Christians to agricultural development and the vernacular. She took enormous pleasure in investigating any visible remains of monuments and buildings, however fragmentary or remote their situation. Above all she wanted others to share these enthusiasms which led her towards causes and organisations embracing the same ideas and to which she Vernacular Buildings Working to the importance of the rural culture of the Highlands.

It was her own small restoraly 1970s with Patsy Siriacs, which gave her first-hand experience of the eccentricities of old buildings and the problems associated with bringing them back to life. As a result she was a valuable and practical trustee of the Scottish Historic Buildings Trust, whose rescue of the Cromarty Old Manse was particularly close to her heart and led to further conservation initiatives in that place with the Cromarty Trust.

Through the early Christian

Cec Waters, boxing trainer, died Sydney, Australia 4 April, aged 70. British trainer who coached his three sons, Dean (heavyweight), Guy (light-heavyweight) and Troy (junior-middleweight to success in Australian and Commonwealth titles. tional Chinese brush painter.

Jane Durham's awareness of the importance of preserving those things from the past which express cultural identity had its first tangible success in the battle to save and resume the care. ent the present of the Colle-giste Church at Tain. Durham's interest in the early Christian history of the Highlands was tic to save and re-use the carly-19th century Tain Academy, which was organised by the Tain and Easter Ross Civic Society. She went on to bring her vitality to the Architectural fired. By her efforts commisses were formed, people were brought together and plans thrashed out, all with the ann vitality to the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland (formerly the Scottish Georgian Society), chairing the Highland group and assiduously scrutinising planning and listed buildings applications to ensure that unnecessary damage to buildings and landscape was avoided. of making the evelesiastical his-tory of the Highlands better us derstood and explained to wide an audience as possible

m ungra

The heauty and significance of the early carved stones moved her deeply and at the time of her death she was pursuing the fu-ture care of the Hilton of Cad-She was born Jane Paterson boll stone. It was a natural progression to be at the forein Easter Ross, Ross and Cro-marty, in 1924, into a farming family. The county became front of the movement to establish a Scottish Redundant the centre from which her Churches Trust and it is signiflife spread out to embrace icant that two Northern Scottish many environmental, cultural churches from St Peter's Sandand conservation causes to which she brought unbounded wick, in Orkney and Ardelach, vigour, freshness and enthusi-asm. In 1947 she married Lt-Nairn could be among the first to come to the Trust.

Durham was a great enabler Cdr Phil Durham, but their life with the navy was cruelly curand her fearless insistence in going straight to the top of any or tailed when he contracted polio. It was to Easter Ross that



28 Tories

ganisation, however august. which she felt could further her particular cause, brought her to the notice of people beyond he local sphere and in turn brought many people from elsewhere in the UK to Scotsburn. This enthusiasm ultimately brought her the appointment she valued deeply, that of a Commission-er on the Royal Commission for the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland. She served the Commission for ten years (1984-94) and brought her local knowledge, and particularly her concern for the archaeology of upland regions under serious threat from the gave unstinting support and march of commercial af-powerful stimuli, the latter forestation, to bear on the sometimes uncomfortable to Commission's programme of the complacent. Her active par- work. But it was not simply ticipation as a member and for her concerns for the survey a term chairman of the Scottish and recording aims of the Commission but her care and Group opened the eyes of many understanding of the staff which made her contribution so outstanding.

For all these achievements tion business, set up in the ear- and for many more not recorded here, she was appointed, MBE in 1995. Her unstinting work, all undertaken in a voluntary capacity, has toucked the lives of many throughout Scotland and beyond.

Jane Mary Stow Paterson, conservationist: born Easter Ross, Ross and Cromarty 26 May 1924; MBE 1995; married 1947 Lt-Cdr Philip Durham (three sons); died Easter Ross 1 April

Bryan Naranjo, died Bogota 6 April, aged 18. At 71 cm tall, he was registered by the Guinness Book of Records as Latin Amer ica's smallest man. Wo Zuoren, artist, died Peking, China 9 April, aged 89. Tradi-

Births. **Marriages** & Deaths

MEMORIAL SERVICES

JESSEL: A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Dame Penelope Jessel will be held at St Giles' Church Oxford, on Saturday 10 May at 2.30pm. For further details, please contact 00 331 40 82 98 92

Announcements for Gazette BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS should be sent in writing to the Gazette Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, Canary Wharf. London E14 5DL, telephoned to 0171-293 2011 (24-hour answering weeking 8171-293 7811) or answering machine 0171-293 2012) or faxed to 0171-293 2010, and are charged at £6.50 a line (VAT extra).

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen and The Dake of Edinburgh give ten to the Vestry of Trinity Church, at Wittchor Cartle. The Princess Royal, President, visits the Save the Children Fund shop, Arbroath, Angus, as President, Rid-mg for the Disabled Association, visits Angus Rading for the Dreabled Group to open the South Bottymyre Centre, Inversity, Angust and opens the new Sheriff Court, Dunder. Princess Margaret attends a luncheon in commemorate World Parkanon's Drease Day held at Lancaster House, Landon SWI, The Duler of Ecot. Var-Chairman, British Overseas Trade Brand, meets Madam Wu Wenying, Chair-man of the China National Textile Comcil. Kingsgate House, London SWL

Changing of the Guard Household Cavalry Mounted Regi-mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, Ham: No 7 Company Cold-stream Guards mounts the Queen's Guard, at Buckinghum Palmee, 11.30nm, band pro-vided by the Welsh Guards. Birthdays

He moved to Tokyo and started with dry point, aquatint earned a precarious living by

Miss Janet Allen, former Headmistress, Benenden School, 61: Viscount Buckmaster, former diplomat, 76; Mr Joseph Burnett-Stuart, former chairman, Robert Fleming Holdings, 67; Professor Raymond Carr, former Warden, St Antony's College, Oxford, 78: Mr Gervasc de Peyer. clarinettist. 71: Sir Oscar De Ville. former chairman, Meyer Interna-tional, 72; Mr Clive Exton. scriptwriter, 67: Mr James Alan Ferman, director, British Board of Film main, director, British Board of Film Classification, 67; Miss Jill Gas-coinc, actress, 60; Mr Joel Grey, actor and singer, 65; Mr Michael Hindley, MEP, 50; Sir Robert Maclean, honorary President, Stod-dard Holdings, 89; Mr Derek Mar-tin, actor, 64; Dame Anne Poole, former chief nursing officer, De-partment of Health, 63; Mr Richard Wainwright, former MP, 79; Profes-

Anniversaries

son du Maurier, actor and manager, 1934; Edgar Jepson, novelist, 1938; Freeman Wilk Crofts, detective story writer, 1957; John Henry O'Hara, novelist, 1970; Marie Ney (Menzies), actress, 1981; Erskine Caldwell, novelist, 1987. On this day: the French were victorious at the Battle of Ravenna, Italy, but their leader, Gaston de Foix, was killed 1512; Sir Thomas Fairfax was victorious at the Battle of Selby during the English Civil War, 1644; William III and Mary II were crowned joint monarchs, 1680; the Thank year 1689; the Treaty of Utrecht was signed between France and England, ceding Gibraltar and Newfoundland sor Michael Wright, mechanical en-gineer and chairman, 600 Group, 50. to England, 1713; the Treaty of Fontainebleau was signed, 1814; Napoleon abdicated, and was ban-

Births: Marguerite d'Angoulême Queen of Navarre, 1492; Christopher Smart, poet, 1722; James Parkinson, physician and palaeontologist, dis-coverer of Parkinson's Disease, 1755: George Canning, statesman, 1770; Manuel José Quintana, writer and politician, 1772; Edward Everett, clergyman and statesman, 1794; Sir Henry Creswicke Rawlinson, sol-dier and orientalist, 1810; Sir Charles Hallé (Carl Halle), pianist and conductor, 1819; James Augustus Grant, travel writer and explorer, 1827; Walter James Macqueen-Pope, theatrical historian, 1888; Dean Good-erham Acheson, lawyer and statesman, 1893. Deaths: Llywelyn ap lorwerth, Prince of Wales, 1240; Donato Bramante (d'Agnolo), ar-chitext, 1514; Sir Thomas Wyatt, con-

spirator, executed 1554; Antoine of the musical Blood Brothers was staged, 1983. Today is the Feast Day of St Barsanuphius, St Gemma Gal-Coypel, painter, 1661; John Galt, nov-elist, 1839; Henry James Byron, playwright, actor and editor, 1884; James Anthony Balley, circus pro-prietor, 1906; Richard Harding Davis, journalist and novelist, 1916; gani, St Godeberta, St Guthlac, St Isaac of Spoleto and St Stanislaus of Luther Burbank, "plant wizard" Lectures 1926; Sir Gerald Hubert Edward Bus-

National Gallery: Claire Ford-Willie,

"The Italian Baroque (ii): saints in a landscape. Domenicho and the Car-Victoria and Albert Museum: An-

drew Bolton, "Historical and 20th-century Chinese Dress", 2.30pm. Tate Gallery: Nick Wadley, "Going going, gone. As in Dream: Gauguin's words and images", 1pm. Gresham College, Barnard's Inn Hall, London EC1: Professor Colin Pillinger, "Water, water, everywhere", lpm.

Royal Society

Sir Aaron King, President, Royal So-ciety, chaired the Croonian Lecture yesterday evening at the Royal Society, London SW1. Professor A.R. Hunter FRS, Professor, Salk Institute, La Jolla, United States, gave the lecture, on the subject "The Phosphorylation of Proteins on Tyrosine: its role in cell growth and disease".

Synagogue services Details of synagogue services to be held tomorrow may be obtained by telephoning the following. Sabbath begins in London at 7.36pm.

United Synagogues: 0181-343 8989. United Synagogues: 0181-343 3899. Rederation of Synagogues: 0181-202 2263. Union of Liberal and Progressive Synagogues: 0171-580 1663. Reform Synagogues of Great Britain: 0181-349 4731. Spanish and Portaguese Jews Congregation: 0171-289 2573. New London Synagogue (Masorii): 0171-323 1026. Clause excluding trustees' liability valid

could be seen exercising his born Mukden, China 1934; died

eight dogs along the beach. Atami, Japan 8 March 1997.

Appeal (Lord Justice Hirst, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Hutchison) 19 March 1997

The Night, a print by Ikeda

al life, revealing that they were

heavy drinkers who could eas-

ily put away a couple of two-litre

evening. He moved to a hixu-

rious studio apartment in the re-

sort town of Atami where he

A clause in a settlement excluding the trustees from liaproperty unless caused by their made liable for loss or damage own actual fraud was not void, either for repugnancy or as contrary to public policy.

The Court of Appeal dismissed an appeal by Paula Rachel Armitage against the decision of Mr Justice Jacob on a preliminary issue in her action for breach of trust against the trustees of a settlement of which she was the principal beneficiary. The trustees' cross-appeal was also dismissed.

The judge had been asked to decide whether clause 15 of the settlement, which exempted the trustees from liability for loss or damage to the settlement fund "unless such loss or damage shall be caused by his own actual fraud", operated to absolve the trustees from liability for all or any of the breaches alleged against

Bernard Weatherill OC (Royds Treadwell) for the beneficiary; Gregory Hill (Hood Vores & Allwood, Dereham; Greenland Houchen, Attleborough; Mills & Reeve, Norwich) for the

them.

LAW REPORT

11 April 1997

clause 15 had been taken from to the capital or income of the trust property unless caused by his own actual fraud. "Actual fraud" meant what it said. It did not mean "constructive fraud"

Photograph: British Museum

James Kirkup

His last ambitious project was

the creation of a great Masuo

Ikeda Art Museum now under

Masuo Ikeda, printmaker, writer.

construction in Nagano.

or "equitable fraud". Derry v Peak (1889) 14 App Cas 337 had established that nothing short of a fraudulent intent in the strictest sense, requiring proof of dishenesty, would suffice. Gross and culpable negligence was not enough. By consciously acting beyond their powers trustees might deliberately commit a breach of trust, but such con-

duct was not fraudulent if they acted in good faith. Clause 15 was, therefore, apt to exclude liability for breach of trust in the absence of a dishonest intention on the part of the trustee whose conduct was impugned, no matter how indolent, imprudent, lacking in diligence, negligent or wilful he

might have been. There was some academic support for the submission made on behalf of the benefi- which had become common in

Lord Justice Millett said that ciary that a trustee exemption clause which purported to exa conveyancing precedent, and clude liability except for actubility for loss or damage to the its meaning was plain and unal fraud was void, either for capital or income of the trust ambiguous. No trustee could be repugnancy or as contrary to repugnancy or as contrary to public policy, but it was not supported by authority.

In Wilkins v Hogg (1861) 31 LJ Ch 41 at 42 counsel had been challenged to cite a case where an indemnity clause protecting the trustee from his ordinary duty had been held so repugnant as to be rejected, but had been unable to do so. No such case had occurred in England or Scotland

The cases that had been relied on as supporting the submission that it was contrary to public policy to exclude liabil. ity for gross negligence had been reviewed by the Jersey Court of Appeal in Midland Bank Trustee (Jersey) Ltd v Federated Pension Services Ltd [1996] Pensions Law Reports 179. The court had concluded that the cases all concerned the true construction of the particular clauses under consideration or of clauses in standard form in the 19th century. None of them dealt with

the much wider form of clause

authority for the proposition advanced.

The view was, however, widely held that such clauses had gone too far, and that trustees who charged for their services, but who as professional men would not dream of excluding liability for ordinary professional negligence, should not be able to rely on a trustee exemption clause excluding liability for gross negligence. Jersey had introduced a law in 1989 which denied effect to a trustee exemption clause which purported to absolve a trustee from libility for his own "fraud, wilful misconduct or gross negligence".

The subject was currently under consideration in this country by the Trust Law Committee. If clauses such as clause 15 of the settlement were to be denied effect, that should be done by Parliament which would have the advantage of wide consultation with interested bodies and the advice of the Trust Law

As they were at present drawn, the pleadings did not allege dishonesty, or any breach of trust for which the trustees were not absolved from liability by clause 15.

Kate O'Hanlon, Barrister

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4 Maping

### )urham \*

# Oh ungrateful voter, to demand straight answers

t is beginning to look as though Labour might win the election, but lose the campaign. Tony Blair's determination to repeat the mistake Neil Kinnock made last time, of allowing himself to be portrayed as the incumbent and John Major as the challenger, may not prove fatal to Labour's hopes, but it is a poor way to set about winning. Something is funamentally wrong with a Labour campaign that responds so defensively to the charge that the party has changed. That, it was thought, was the whole point of Mr Blair. It was his proud boast. And so it should be still.

This election is about trust. They usually are. But this time, it is apparent that neither main party is trusted by the electorate. Opinion polls will not tell you that, because trust is not a directly measurable commodity. It is, though, an observable fact.

The reasons why people do not trust the Tories are almost too obvious to need repeating: they betrayed their promise on taxes, and they are deeply divided over Europe. Labour is not trusted, either - but for different reasons, which have in many ways only now been brought into focus by the election campaign. The campaign has concentrated voters' minds on the fact that, contrary to their expectations, they are not at all sure what kind of a creature the Labour Party now. And that, sure enough, makes them uneasy.

As so often in politics, it took something relatively minor to trigger this change in mood. The privatisation of air traffic control is not a big issue for anyone other than air traffic controllers. It is an issue of substance, but not one of the front rank. Yet this relatively minor question has cracked Mr Blair's façade of certainty. For some time the Labour leader has been impressively determined, clear and leaderly. Suddenly the little boy (a role played in this pantomime by the electorate) has pointed out that he has no clothes, by asking in a loud voice: "But what is he determined, clear and leaderly about?"

The U-turn on privatisation does not look like a considered move in Labour's modernisation, it looks like a panic reaction to the belated discovery that Labour would not have privatisation receipts to make the numbers add up in government.

One still, small voice from many months ago can now be heard clearly, echoing through the silences of Labour's campaign. Charles Clarke, who was Mr Kinnock's minder and so knows how an election campaign can go pear-shaped, warned that the details of Labour policies were insufficiently worked out. This mattered, he said, for two reasons. The first is that a bit of detail helps candidates and spokespeople who otherwise have to waffle and evade. The second is that it ensures



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that Labour ministers would have something for civil servants to do,

rather than the other way around. But Mr Clarke is now only the candidate in Norwich South, and other counsels have prevailed. If he were still a free man, rather than a bonded New Labourer, he might now be making other observations. For example, he might point out that one of Mr Kinnock's big mistakes last time was to announce a policy change in the mid-dle of the election campaign - in his case on changing the voting system, an issue that rolled out of control in the

Professional as it undoubtedly is, why did Mr Blair's campaign machine fail to anticipate that Labour would be forced to defend its record? Just like Mr Kinnock, Mr Blair is being chal-lenged by the voters to explain why they should trust him when he has changed his mind on many of the important political issues. Mr Blair and his aides, instead of confidently expounding the reason for change (it is what you, the voters wanted) sound most put out. Having put the New in Labour, rewritten Clause IV and become the party of the centre, all to popular acclaim and soaring poll ratings, the ungrateful voters have turned round and said: "You've changed. Why should we trust you?" It may not be fair, but it is what voters feel, and therefore it need a straight and serious answer, not a lot of indignant waffle.

This is an important moment, because Mr Blair is being put to the test. In a way, what the electorate wants is for him to show some conviction almost any conviction will do, just something to indicate that he is not merely a bend-with-the-wind careerist

The comparison to be made here is with John Smith, a leader who built a bond of trust with much of the British electorate because of his very constancy. In the end, it must be doubted that Mr Smith could have led Labour to as strong a lead as Mr Blair, because he could not have made big enough changes. Under Mr Smith, suspicion of old Labour would have outweighed the benefits of people knowing and even liking much of what it stood for.

Change was Mr Blair's strongest suit. He has been so emphatic about the need for Labour to change to meet the aspirations of the people that it is surprising that he should stumble now that the question is being asked in earnest. It is the one subject on which he is capable of showing real political aggression,

and he needs to start doing so again.

The reason the voters should trust him, he should say, is that he has put all his energies into changing his party and rethinking what it believes. That includes a direct acceptance that he has changed his own views about some things, because people grow up and the world changes. There is no way he can slide back from what he has achieved. and the U-turn on privatisation should be used as evidence that he will not only fight the election as New Labour, but govern as New Labour.

If he fails to fight back with a positive message, then we will be left doubting whether he enters Downing Street with sufficient fire in his belly.

### Say a prayer for the scientists

eligion and science, we are often told, are not incompatible, they are just different answers to different questions. Not for Professor Russell Stan-nard at the Open University, they're not. Conducting a supposedly controlled "scientific" experiment to test the efficacy of prayer on ill people (only in the US of A) is going to tell us about as much about religious truth as carbon-dating the Turin shroud tells us about whether Christ really ascended to heaven. For heaven's sake (apt words, for once), can't believers take their faith a little more seriously?

> Rational faith needs no ark

Sir: The letters by Mark Smith, Deborah Woolhouse and Dr A Majid Katme (10 April) were all so

preposterous that I had to check

my diary to make sure it wasn't the

first of April. It really is a pity that

make a literal interpretation of the

The implication in all critiques of

apparently intelligent people can

Bible, the Koran, or any other ancient religious document to

explain the origins of life.

way or another, there is a

investigate the Creationist

This is complete nonsense.

conspiracy by scientists either to

cover up the truth or a refusal to

viewpoint because of prejudice.

Science is a dynamic discipline in

evolution by religious fundamentalists is that, in some

### • LETTERS TO THE EDITOR •

### **Sleaze: Tories** finally act after 18 years

Sir: Yet again the Tories are following "Tories would make bribing MPs a " heels of our Sunday announcement

The Tories have had 18 years to deal with this and done nothing. Even now the Prime Minister only

immunity from the criminal law. for misusing his or her position ought to face court proceedings in Labour will amend the Prevention of Corruption Act to make sure corrupt MPs face jail, not just parliamentary inquiries. ACK STRAW hadow Home Secretary The Labour Party London SE17

Sir: Your leading article (8 April) on Martin Bell's candidacy did not address an important democratic issue. Getting rid of one sleazy Democrats to deny the voters of Tatton their right to vote for the parties and manifestos of their

independent pro-Labour cancidate. If Mr Bell remains as a candidate he should, at the very least, indicate which party he would normally support during the lifetime of the next parliament; which policy

he would support or oppose; whether he will take up each and every allegation of political sleaze, during the election and during the next parliament, whichever party is involved; and how he intends to finance his campaign and keep it fully independent of the Labour and Liberal Democrat machines. RICHARD HELLER

Sir: It seems to be taken for granted that Neil Hamilton should he presumed innocent until proved guilty. This would obviously be

have the privilege of representing his constituents. Where there is privilege to be allocated. I see no injustice in presuming candidates unworthy until shown to be worthy. CHRISTOPHER WALLIS

Sir. Perhaps the Tory candidate for Tatton, Neil Hamilton, might help his case a little by telling his in full view of the TV cameras. SCOTT ANDERSON

### Junk suspicion

centain paranoia. About a month ago, I closed my current account at Midland Bank.

That account was my only contact with any financial institution. I have narredit card, insurance scheme or sion. Within two or three days my junk mail completely ceased. even the mail from charities. ROBERT THORBURN Earthorn, Surrey

# in Labour's footsteps. Your report

crime" (10 April) comes hot on the that Labour will make bribery involving Members of Parliament a criminal offence.

offers to "examine the question". MPs should not have special

Any MP, who, for example, is found to have taken large sums of cash in brown paper envelopes in exchange

backbencher was not a good enough reason for Labour and the Liberal choice. That is why I offered through your columns last week to stand as an

pledges from the party manifestos

appropriate if the issue here were

one of punishment. It is not. The issue is whether he should

formidable-looking wife to stop constantly leading him by the hand

### Sit; I feel I am justified in feeling a

of us all. JEREMY KILLINGRAY Labour Councillor

Harder-headed Sir: Many public servants, not all of them women or social workers, will

describes. But they may see it as a

dominated local management as of the pervasive influence of a "New

Public Management" based on

markets and contracts.

The disciplines of New Public

expenditure so that the country

can be competitive in global markets. They have brought important benefits in terms of

efficiency and effectiveness. But

need to control public

because the aims are so

universally accepted, it has

become almost impossible to question the management

processes by which it is claimed

that they can be achieved. They

ultimately corrupting, if they are applied for their own sake, and for

league tables, without regard for

their social outcomes or a wider

in the long run have a profound

sense of public purpose. They can

effect not just on the management

of our public services but also on

our civic values and the nature of

the society in which we live.

How to reconcile economic

progress with liberal values of

public service and citizenship is

domestic challenge which the next

perhaps the most important

government will have to face.

DAVID FAULKNER

St John's College,

Oxford

can become dangerous, and

performance indicators and

the resulting scores in

Management are founded on the

result not so much of a male-

Sir. I, for one, will not be shedding any tears at the departure of Joyce Brand from her career as a social worker ("The men who took the heart out of social work", 9 April). Many in the profession like her joined for worthy reasons, as she puts it "wanting to relieve and prevent hardship and suffering".

social work

Thankfully a harder-headed approach to providing for those with a range of complex needs is being developed with the advent of community care. The requirement for social services managers to allocate resources to client care managed by both private and voluntary organisations has concentrated minds on the quality existing local authority provision. Often, genuine client-informed services can be found in the voluntary and private sectors. It is this competition that challenges the "rea

and sympathy" values of Joyce Brand. Creating specialised divisions within social services departments children and families, elderly services and special needs - has enabled social workers to become more focused and knowledgeable concerning services for specific groups. The move to a more demarcated care market-place has enhanced social workers' professional integrity and has inspired public confidence in the

Finally, the promotion of "human well-being" far from being the sole preserve of saintly social workers is in fact the responsibility

London Berough of Hackney London E8

#### Labour breaks the Golden Rule recognise the situation Joyce Brand

Sir: It is difficult to reconcile what Labour is now saying about using asset sales and privatisation receipts to fill the alleged £1.2 bn "black hole" in its budgetary pans and what Labour said only last week in its manifesto about the rule it will follow in making budgetary

Labour, like the Liberal Democrats, says it will follow the "Golden Rule" of public finance, that over the the economic cycle the government should not borrow for current expenditure but should limit borrowing to investment

That should mean the end of the practice of counting privatisation receipts as free money to spend on current projects. Only the difference between the return of assets before privatisation and the return on the proceeds of privatisation should count as available for current spending.

But Labour seems to be saying that it will count all the proceeds of its asset sales and privatisations against a shortfall in current Labour's commitment to financial rectitude seems to have

lasted about as long as its policies on devolution and the single currency. DAVID HOWARTH Liberal Democrat Candidate for Peterborough Clare College,

Sir: I read your leading article (7 April), "Labour starts off with slippery leadership", with interest. Those of us who can remember life before the Tories may recall that it was the Labour Party who started the campaign of privatisation we have seen over the last two decades.

It may have been left to Mrs (hatcher's administration to make virtue of a necessity, but it was Dennis Healey who floated at least one tranche of BP shares in the late JOHN DRAKE Edinburgh

### Curb fat cats

Sir: In the 1980s governments sought to modify the law regulating trade unions – an area which practically all could see needed attention. In the 1990s it has become more

and more evident that the law relating to commercial companies needs attention. Directors - with the aid of a few "outsiders" on the renumeration committee - seem to have the power to sit round the boardroom table and vote for one another to "steal" the shareholders' money. "Block votes" exercised (in many instances by proxy) at AGMs enable a few to overpower any kind of democratic

control. Are any of the parties contending the current election proposing to tackle this problem? FW DAWBER Macclesfield, Cheshire

Cambridge Post letters to Letters to the Editor, and include a daytime telephone number. Fax: 0171-293 2056; il: letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity. We regret we are unable to acknowledge unpublished letters.

A voter lost in

Sir: The other night I thought I'd

take a look at what the major

political parties had to say for

themselves on the World Wide

described as a steam-powered

computer but it fulfils my usual

personal and business Internet

of non-wired readers is what 1

The Conservatives were

glaring message about tax

promises, they noticed I wasn't

software and offered me a less

flashy alternative. Sadly it didn't

refreshing change. A competent design allowed for the technical

limitations of my setup. They told

me what I wanted to know - and

gave me the chance to give them

Lastly I dropped in on the Monster Raving Looneys, Again I

fared better than with the Tories or

messages), an explanation that their site is still under construction.

contact details for the meantime

and a kind invitation to come back

How should I vote, I wonder?

New Labour (ie no error

MARION MALCHER

some feedback.

The Lib Dem site was a

sing the latest hells and whistles

found.

Web. I have, I admit, what might be

requirements. Here for the benefit

apparently oblivious that anyone might still be using old technology,

(my software is about 18 months old), I couldn't get past the first page which had little pictures

showing the Houses of Parliament

New Labour were better. After a

cyberspace

which theories are constantly challenged and refined. The evolution of life over hundreds of millions of years is not just a theory that popped into someone's head and then all scientists adopted it. It has evolved and been tested from every possible direction and withstood all of the tests.

Religious fundamentalists will never be persuaded to change their views by any arguments, for to do so would destroy their faith. For those who are truly open-minded, however, you can still believe in a god and recognise that the ancient religious texts were written in times when people did not know that the Earth moves around the Sun, that the Sun and all other stars were products of sustained thermonuclear reactions, that lightning is produced by a high voltage discharge across the insulating medium.

If you were asked to explain the origins of life back in those times, what implausible stories would you have written? Dr ANDREW ELLIS

Sir; Mark Smith ends his letter in defence of Creationism with "This is not fundamentalism. It's

common sense."
Quite so. As Bertie Russell
remarked: "Common sense is the metaphysics of savages." Dr WILLIAM DORRELL

#### Plagued by 'charity' calls

Sir: Further to David Robinson's letter (9 April), as assistant company secretary of another London-based company I confirm that we also receive many calls such as he describes. We find that typically those using this pattern of address are in fact publishing houses, some of whom retain a high percentage of the funds donated and merely pass on the resultant brochure or booklet to

the charity.
Therefore we interrupt all such greetings with an enquiry "Are you a publishing house"." and politely advise them that we only respond to requests received direct from charities; so attempting to ensure that donations reach the worthy cause for which they are intended. SARAH GHINN London SW16

### Last word

Hentford

Sir: Letterwise, PR Millest (Letters, 4 April) hits the postmodern zeitgeist squarely on the noggin.
JOHN MITCHELL

# New Labour, new Lord Chancellor

o start understanding Lord Irvine, it is worth considering his interest in art. This is not merely a way one of the most successful commercial QCs in London has chosen to spend his money. It is the absolute, ruling passion of his life outside family and work. His collection of British paintings, mainly from the first half of the century, at his West Hampstead house, is not the biggest or the most valuable private one of its kind in the country. But, all of it paid for, as he points out "from my taxed, earned income", it is certainly one of the best chosen: Sickert, Stanley Spencer, Sir Matthew Smith, Paul Nash. Many of them are Scottish: the colourists SJ Peploe, JD Fergusson and Leslie Hunter among them. He and his wife Alison who, in a step both admired and envied by her husband, took a second degree in the history of art as a mature student at the Courtauld 10 years ago - fit their European holidays round the major art exhibitions. They go back again and again to the Uffizi in Florence. Without affectation, Irvine says "I envy the Medicis their taste and the sensible use of their great wealth in accumulating these treasures.

Lord Irvine, in other words, does nothing by halves. Everything about him is just a shade larger than life. He works ferociously hard. But he also loves good food, drink, conversation. He is a big man, in every sense. And if Labour wins on 1 May Alexander Irvine will be bigger still. For we have, as if we needed it, Cherie Blair's word for it that the barrister who brought her and Tony together, and who was pupilmaster to both of them, and who helped to launch the Labour leader on his political career, would be Blair's Lord Chancellor. But that doesn't quite do justice to the role that Irvine, the least wellknown member but potentially one of the most influential of Blair's inner circle, will play in a Labour cabinet. It's a big job. Sitting on the Woolsack and presiding over the Lords is the least of it. The Lord Chancellor runs the sixth largest government department. He presides over the highest court in the land whenever he chooses to. And he appoints every judge below the level of the Court of Appeal; his advice is almost invariably taken by the Prime Minister

on the appointment of the top judges as well. But in Lord Irvine's case, this isn't all. He will have political clout way beyond his own remit. As friend and mentor to Blair he speaks daily to the leader on the phone - often at around 7am. He is part of the inner election team at Millbank, arbitrating, counselling, problem solving - an especially valuable role in this rather wobbly stage of the campaign. Though he won't discuss his role on policy, he chaired the small committee which turned over all the options on devolution before Blair announced there would be a referendum. He won't talk about the inter-

Lord Irvine, larger than life barrister and mentor to Tony and Cherie Blair, could play a big part in the next government. He talks to Donald Macintyre about art, politics and the future of the judiciary

nal Labour tensions on law and order either, but he is known to have persuaded Jack Straw to ahandon his support for the "bugging and bur-gling" measures in Michael Howard's Police Bill. Irvine is more of a libertarian than than Straw, more perhaps than Blair. He influenced the Labour shift, under John Smith, to incorporating into British law the European Convention on Human Rights. He could even, at 56, become the liberal conscience of a Blair government.

His father, a roof slater, was at war for the first five years of Irvine's life, in No 2 Commando fighting with the partisans in Yugoslavia, and in Italy. Both his parents were Labour but the dommant influence on him was his mother, the fiercely intelligent daughter of Alexander Macmillan, a Lairg socialist and building con-tractor who moved to Inverness as a clerk of works when his business fell on hard times. His Auntie Emma, another formidable woman who lived to be 102, remained in Sutherland, in a little croft at Gruids where Irvine spent the first 14 summers of his life. In short, Irvine, a war baby and an only child, was brought up by women. His schooling was a classic of the state Scot-

tish system at its best: Inverness Academy, and then, when the family moved to Glasgow, "Hutchie" - Hutcheson's Boys' Grammar School, where he was taught by some of the best teachers in Scotland, including the rigorous classicist Ninian A Jameson. "I have," he says, "a really passionate belief in public education as a democratic route to self-improvement." At Glasgow University, where he joined the Labour Party in 1958, and where John Smith and Donald Dewar were also students, he read philosophy, economics and law. Moving to Cambridge, he came top, out of 220 students, in the law tripos. He had always planned to enter the Scots Bar, but he was

attracted by Sixties London. He needed a job until he had evough money to launch out in practice. Refusing a fellowship at Jesus, Cambridge, he took a job at the LSE. As a radical young law don, he was caught up in the 1968 student unrest: his first act of advocacy was to represent the NUS president David Adelstein against disciplinary charges over a letter he had written to *The Times* protesting against the controversial appointment of Walter Adams as principal. In recognition of this blow for freedom he was made one of two new honorary life presidents of the LSE students' union. The other was Mao Tse Tung. Irvine became a QC at 37. For a year he was

Irvine became a QC at 37. For a year he was the youngest Silk in the country. Four years earlier he had married Alison McNair, another Glasgow graduate. His family life – they have two sons - has been steadfastly happy. But there had been a painful aspect to the union. She left her first husband, Donald Dewar, now Labour's Chief Whip, and another pivotal member of Blair's team, for Irvine. This wouldn't be anyone else's business if it wasn't for speculation that it will be difficult for Dewar and Irvine to work closely in government, particularly as they may find themselves jointly responsible for Labour's huge programme of constitutional change. Irvine dismisses this speculation. "We get on extremely well and we have sat together on committees," he says. "Donald has visited our house and we have a good and effective working relationship." Irvine adds that he had care of Dewar's children and that "Donald and I have met over the years on many occasions and had conversations perfectly harmoniously in the interests of the children.

'n 1981 Irvine took a dramatic step: he led a breakaway to form new chambers of his own, at 11 King's Bench Walk. Or rather, he was persuaded to do so by nine ambitious young barristers, including Tony Blair. Irvine ran the new chambers, by all accounts, as a benevolent despot. Blair expressed at the time, with mock portentousness: "And you ask me, does the principle of one person one vote apply in these cham-bers - Yes, I say. And Derry has the vote." Blair has subsequently said that Irvine taught him "how to think". The success of the new cham bers is probably Irvine's proudest professional achievement. Every one of his own pupils has become a QC except one - and he may be Prime Minister within the month.

Irvine introduced Blair to John Smith in the very early Eighties. And when a slightly embarrassed Blair told Irvine that he wanted to stand for Parliament, Irvine was startled but sympa-thetic. He himself had stood for marginal Hendon in the 1970 election, when he was in Sir Morris Finer's chambers. He recalled how when his clerk was "unbelievably hostile" to Irvine for doing so, Sir Morris rebuked the clerk, saying that Parliament was "not exactly an ignoble ambition".

What kind of Lord Chancellor would be be? Last year he was attacked by some liberals for firmly drawing a boundary beyond which judges should not step in checking the executive. He said a speech by Lord Woolf, suggesting that it might on occasion be right for judges to not enforce an Act of Parliament, smacked of "judicial supremacism". Irvine says that he is a "great upholder of judicial review and the independence of the judiciary." but he adds, "what is critical here is to know what is the correct province for judges and what is the correct province for Parliament." Take Howard's "profoundly misguided" and "ludicrous" attempt to impose

mandatory sentences. "There is all the difference in the world between someone who has been selling hard drugs to all-comers, and the common case of a pathetic individual who sells a bit on the side to fund his own addiction." But, "a hard distinction must be drawn between what is profoundly unwise and what is unconstitutional. Parliament is sovereign. If Parliament decides to impose a minimum sentence for classes of case, then Parliament is acting within its powers and the judge's duty is to apply the law." Equally, on both pragmatic and liberal grounds, he champions the incorporation of the ECHR, and the consequent new powers it would give British judges. "We have an appalling record in Strasbourg of having legislation condemned because it breaks a convention to which we are a party. Why trust foreign judges

and not our own judges?" Another fear among some radicals is that he will slow down the reforms of the present Lord Chancellor, Lord Mackay. Irvine is not planning to halt Mackay's opening up of advocacy to prop-erly qualified solicitors, though he points out that the impact of the Mackay legislation has been very limited so far. "Solicitors who are properly qualified are well entitled to compete with the specialist Bar. My own prediction is that a separate independent Bar will continue because of the high quality of the Bar and its full-time skills

But he is a stout defender of the cab rank rule, under which barristers take any case irrespective of their own views, provided they are being tried on points of law. And here he makes an interesting point about his old pupil Cherie Booth QC. No doubt, he says, from time to time "she will be instructed by Conservative local authorities or individuals who want to sue the government of which her husband is head. She will be criticised for doing so but the ethical rule is plain. What more graphic demonstration of the independence of the Bar could there be than that?"

A big difference from Lord Mackay is politics. Mackay is the least party political of Lord Chancellors. You wouldn't, for example, see the present Lord Chancellor in Central Office during the election, as you see Lord Irvine at Millbank. There is every likelihood that Irvine will be a big player across a broad front - for example chairing key cabinet committees, which Lord Mackay has never done.

Only Lord Dilhorne, Macmillan's last Lord Chancellor, has come remotely near wielding the influence Irvine is likely to have if Labour wins. He isn't a rival. It isn't too much to expect that. for many years to come, he will prove to be the one cabinet colleague Blair trusts unequivocally.

Looking to Rodin: Alexander

'Derry' Irvine is a mar of political envies the Medicis for their taste and their

> patronage Photograph: Nicola Kurtz



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Pregnancy

part from a bout of graffiti-painting in the 1960s, I have never been actively involved in politics so I was quite surprised to get a call last week from activists in the Tatton constituency asking me if I might think about

standing for Parliament for them. "Not been your year, has it?" I said sympathetically.

'I beg your pardon?" they "You'll be lucky to stay in the Premier Division. And it

doesn't help to see Arsenal doing so well ..."
I thought they had said Tottenham. Icily, they said that they were from latton. I told them I would look it up on the map and ring them

"Hello," I said, ringing them back, "Well, I've looked Tatton up in my big road atlas, and I'm afraid there is no such place listed, so either this is a belated April Fool joke or you have given me the wrong name. I have found Toton in Nottinghamshire and Totton in Hampshire and Taston in Oxfordshire, which all sound nice, though I have to say I would prefer it to be Taston which is slightly nearer to where I live ... "

somewhat coldly, to inform me that the constituency was actually named after Tatton Dale, an area of Cheshire

"Got it," I said, turning the map. "Here we are. Knutsford ... Wilmslow. Oh, no, how dreadful!"
"What's wrong?" they said quickly.

Being Knutsford and Wilmslow country, that's what's dreadful," I said. "I've been there. I've seen it. All those smarmy, pseudo-smart, funny money, wheelerdealer, poodle parlour, nouveau riche, coach lamp, house-name-written-on-slice-

of-log places ... "You are talking about our constituents," the voice said

"I thought they were Neil Hamilton's constituents." "Not for long, we hope."
"Pity," I said. "It sounds to me as if Neil Hamilton is just the right man for such a .

place. Both dodgy smooth..."
"Before we ask you to run as our anti-sleaze candidate, said the voice, "can we ask you for a view of Mr Hamilton?"

"Mr Hamilton," I said, "is an obvious scumbag who no more deserves a seat at Westminster than a seat on



Enveloped between my respectable rivals

Miles Kington

the lavatory. He is just the sort of spivvy, self-made twerp that Thatcherism brought into being, and he is precisely the sort of person who has given the Conservative Party such a bad name."

There was an awed silence for a moment. "And that is your view?"
"No," I said. "That is the

view of Mr A N Wilson. writing in the Evening

"And do you agree with. "Not entirely. I think there were spivvy self-made twerps like Neil Hamilton before Thatcher came along."

There was a whispered

conversation at the other end of the line. Then the voice spoke again.
"Mr Kington, we would

like to invite you to the final selection meeting for picking our anti-sleaze candidate. Would you care to be there?" "Well, it's a long way ..."

"We will pay your expenses."
"Used notes in a brown envelope? Overnight freebie? Wife included?" "Of course."

Minutes later I was heading for the motorway. The next day I was in the ante-room for the final interview. There were plenty of recognisable faces there of people who, for one reason or another, would like to be seen standing as anti-sleaze candidates. Bruce Grobbelaar I noticed, and Jeffrey Archer, and Ernest Saunders, and Norman

Lamont .. I sat next to an mobtrusive man in the corner and introduced

"Craig Brown," he said, shaking my hand "Would that be the manager of the Scottish football team or the

humorist who writes

countless columns a week

some under his own name?"

"You think they are two different people, do you?" he

While I was still puzzling over this, my name was called and I was led in to the anti-sleaze HQ.
"Tell us, Mr Kington," said

the committee chairman, 'have you ever done anything remotely sleazy which the opposition might

dig up?" I was about to tell them about the time I had employed a cleaner and not paid her National Insurance in full, when my mobile phone rang. I answered it.

"I'm sorry, gents," I said, standing up. "I have just had a call from a tabloid newspaper who tell me that if I stand as an anti-sleaze candidate, they have a stock of highly salacious photographs of me which they would not be afraid to print. In this situation I have no decent course of action

but to withdraw." They quite understood. In fact I was telling a lie. The phone call was from the BBC to ask me to be on the shortlist to take Martin Bell's job. But I thought that if I told But I thought that is them the truth, they would them the truth, they would not think it an entirely honourable reason to

withdraw.

لفكذا من الأعل

### Who is responsible for producing this virtual election?

ast night a terrible thing happened. I went to bed with Charles Kennedy. He was there when I went to sleep and he was still there when I woke up. I drifted off while he was on a late-night while he was on a late-night television programme and woke up to his voice on the radio. As fragrant as Mr Kennedy doubtless is, I thought "This cannot be happening." Then I realised that this was how I fall about the alexihow I felt about the election in general – this is not really hap-pening. So far, this has been a virtual election, a meticulous simulation of what an election might be. Ken Barlow, the commander of the Starship Enterprise, the Klingon wife, Mrs Hamilton, are all signifi-cant players in this digital world. If you tog yourself up in the right gloves and goggles, if you plug yourself into the right equipment, you will be amazed at how lifelike it all feels though you need to have the inclination to make the effort

in the first place.

What has produced this disorientating scenario? Well, there are three main parties involved in this election. Contrary to popular belief they are not the Conservative, Labour or Liberal Democrat parties. No. They are the Media Party, the Politicians' Party and the Voters' Party. The Media Party is way ahead, its support wavering somewhat,

but its victory assumed by most serious poll-sters and commentators. The Politicians' Party is clinging on somewhat desperately to the wreckage of an anachronistic system, but it increasingly steals its policies, its presentation, even its ideals from the dominant Media Party. The Voters' Party, quite frankly, is not performing well at all. It is apathetic, dishevelled, uninterested. It shows up occasionally when ordinary people are required to opine for the benefit of one or other of the two main parties. It is widely considered to be the least well informed and well funded of all the parties. It has simply not got its act together, and is riven with splits based on race, class and gender that it cannot heal. Even more serious splits occur motives of this odd bunch of mistits. Are they over which make of car its members drive, with not interested because they are stupid? Quite the Mondeo and Sierra factions currently, possibly. Or are they not interested because prominent. The party's only real strength is instructed a smaller quite elever into sing in their ability to hold the balance of power between bones that we are less and less dependent on the other two parties. Yet one wonders whether what goes in Westminster and understanding it takes this challenge seriously, as it cannot even persuade its own members to participate.

Both the Media Party and the Politicians' Party patiently explain to the Voters' Party that voting is itself a privilege that has been graciously bestowed from on high. "Just think," they proclaim, "there are some places where no one is allowed to vote at all." This argument - like telling a child to eat food he or she doesn't like because somewhere in Africa another child is starving - cuts little ice, yet it is an argument that the Media Party and the Politicians' Party like to recite to each other.

The Media Party has even found its own candidate in the shape of Reverend Bell, who,



Suzanne Moore

The Voters' Party. is not performing well at all.

It is dishevelled and it is apathetic

result is a massive desensitisa-tion that finally gives the poor old Voters' Party a chance to breathe. Through fear of the Media Party, the Politicians Party has been in closedown mode for some time. The Media Party insists that it wants to open up, debate the issues, but it did a deal so long ago with the Politicians Party that only a narrow range of issues can be repetitively analysed over and over again. Occasionally tiny parties such as the Church get a look in by bleating on about inequality and everyone looks on in astonishment. Who

despite his whiter-than-white suit and angst-ridden body language, will soon find out the

true meaning of being shot by both sides. The Politicians'

Party is completely split on this one. Tatton is too terrifying for

them. Blair and his boys could

have marched down there and

shouted at the Hamiltons them-

selves, "Yes, you are bloody guilty and you know it". Instead, the Reverend Bell,

flanked by hordes of rabid

reporters, could only mumble "Absolutely, absolutely" when asked whether he accepted

Then again, the Media Party

has an enormous advantage

over the other two parties

because it controls all the cov-

erage of the other contenders. It prides itself on performing a

valuable service that everyone is grateful for. It also believes

that it can increase its power over the course of this election.

That's why it can indulge in its various "media watches", in a cynical deconstruction of its

The 24-hour-a-day party-

political broadcast for the

Media Party may be on a per-

manent loop but the system is

getting badly overloaded. The

own raison d'être.

Hamilton's innocence.

on earth do they represent?

However, both the Politicians' Party and the Media Party know that some hint of spontaneity is required to make this virtual event seem real and so they like to engineer the odd

that the role of the nation state is not what it

For a virtual election dispenses with public meetings - too many yucky members of the public, too lo-tech, too destabilising. The pact between the Media Party and the Politicians Party is so ingrained that they have convinced each other that nothing else much matters. Thus the election becomes merely a media construct. The election does not exist. The sooner we realise this, the sooner power will drain away from the Media Party and the Politicians' Party and there could even be a real election. Obviously, I could be making this all up, but then isn't that what my job is all about?

# The run-down estate we're in

by Polly Toynbee

o, I don't vote I won't vote." Lisa arms

صكدا من الأصل

defiance, enough to make anyone despair. Why not, for God's sake? Surely Labour can't be worse and who knows, they might even be better. Lisa is not stupid, she is angry. "They could bloody put me in jail and I still wouldn't vote!" Several others in this mother and toddler club on the Kingsmead estate in Hackney, east London, agree. They are militant non-voters. Why? "The day any politician comes down here and lives on

benefits then I'd vote for them to go to Westminster. What do they know about us?" The election is passing them by, for these are 1997's political unmentionables, the outcasts, the disappeared. Parties say nothing about the poor so the poor refuse to vote for them, fair's fair.

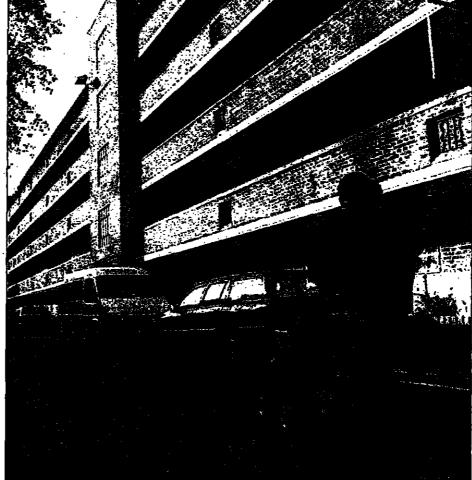
I try again. What on earth is the point of not voting? What good does it do? "It does good to me. Even if no one else knows, not voting makes me feel better," Carol says. They hear what the politicians say

and it simply does not begin to connect with their lives. Take Patsy, look at her life and observe the chasm between the way she lives and the way politicians of all parties talk

about people like her.

She is 22, pregnant with her second child and survives by cheating on social security, like many others. She dropped out of a two-year nursery nursing course as she couldn't manage on a grant of only £173 every three months. "I really wanted to finish that course, I wanted to work in a crèche on a cruise ship and get away from here." Fantasy maybe, but at least it was a dream.

Instead she worked in a chemist's and took up with a boy who was also forced to drop out of the same course. Now she has a flat on the undestrable Thirties Kingsmead estate where 65 per cent of people are on benefits. She and her child draw £69 a week and she tells the social security she doesn't know where her child's father is. In fact, he lives down the road but only dares stay the night with her on Saturdays for fear of neighbours shopping them to the Benefit Cheatline. He works in a shoe factory for very low pay, 50 hours a week for £145. "He works really hard, but we just couldn't survive on what he earns without cheating." Her friend Julie has voters don't think the poor say about people like them?



'They could put me in jail and I still wouldn't vote ... The day any politician comes down here and lives on benefits, then I'd vote for them'

already been done for benefit deserving. But how are voters They talk of stamping out benfraud. Cheating is wrong but it to understand a little more efit fraud first - not exactly a is hardly surprising.

children? Why not work your whelm places like Kingsmead way up for a few years first? whelm places like Kingsmead if no one ever talks about it But I know the sociologists' answer - for no-hope women, being a mother is the closest they will ever come to being important. It is a bad reason, feckless, a life stunted by too early motherhood leaving the rest of us to pick up the bill. But once you've roundly blamed them for the state they've got themselves into, what then? Politicians do not mention the poor because most

hardly surprising. about the cycles of psycholog-Why, I want to ask, have ical deprivation that overexcept in the self-satisfied language of blame?

Julie sees that look in my eye, I suppose, for she leans forward, her two-year-old on her knee. "We know what they say about us. They say we shouldn't have children until we're financially secure. Well round here no one would ever bloody have children. Maybe they want us to just die out."

So what do the politicians

vote-winner here. No party is offering these women crèches. though Labour promises afterschool clubs for older children and a scheme to get single mothers back to work. Labour's welfare-to-work plans will help many, but the word "training" does not thrill them. "My husband's done a

gie. "Now he's been sent on a building course with Mowlem's 45 and of course he won't get a building job afterwards.

carpentry course," said Mag-

poor vote least: they were born vote for them. Well, sod that!"

with low expectations. They hear the language in which they are discussed and they know what Westminster thinks of them. Politicians' schemes often look more like threats than promises.

There is a clash of cultures here. Politicians promise solutions to problems; welfare-towork trips off their tongues with a glibness that does not impress the putative recipients They hear No More Taxes and they know Hackney council will not have more money to fix their crumbling estate. Anyway, they hate Hackney council, blaming it and Labour as the branch of government closest to hand.

I put forward some arguments for their own self-interest, if not for civic duty. What about the minimum wage? A lot of people round here work for less. Yes, they grudgingly agree, that would help. Well what would make you vote Labour with enthusiasm? Proper jobs, for pay well above social security. A decent place to live. Good schools - Julie is bitter because she left a Hackney school unable to read. Lisa says: The politicians don't know about our life. I don't think they can imagine living with a child on £69 a week. That's what they spend on lunch."

True. So do journalists sometimes and others with power and influence. Lisa is right: if we all suddenly found ourselves living on £69 a week in Kingsm:ad, it wouldn't be the silent issue of the election, it would be the only issue.

When politicians say we cannot afford to do more, they only mean they don't dare tax us lunch-eaters more. Mezzo. Le Pont de la Tour, the Oxo Tower, Bibendum, Le Caprice and Christopher's, London restaurants are booming as never before. The lunchers shrug and ask, "What can you do about the feckless underclass anyway?" Without money, nothing. With money, a lot. If you took the youngest children on Kingsmead and gave them intensive nursery schools, family support, high-powered education, summer schools and homework clubs you would transform their chances - a better national investment than lunch. But this election, the lunchers have it.

Lisa's militant non-voting stance is, in my view, a bad mistake – but it is at least underfor £10 extra a week. But he's standable: "They've got a nerve, haven't they? First they call us scroungers, then they It is hardly surprising that the expect us to bloody go out and

### Power to the pooches

once was?

vant-garde ethicists have lately been crying: animals have rights. Right on. Why are pets and pooches excluded from the rite of May There are households in this

great nation of ours where the advice of Sam. Fido, Thumper or Vom would be most welcome. indeed where - if the ballot booth curtains could be drawn tight enough - the family dog would be encouraged to put his paw mark on the ballot paper. But how would we mutts

vote? One can guess about the aforementioned Vom. He is Westminster Dog of the Year, and you would expect his loyalty to lie with his master, the Tery MP Philip Oppenheim. But Vom's master is not the

only one of our erstwhile parliamentarians who has been cultivating the doggie vote. When it comes to pets, opposition to government intervention, freedom of markets, anything that smacks of principle or consistency be hanged. If the name of the game is slavering to special interests. Members of the House of Commons can give dogs a run for their money

National Canine Defence League has them quening up to sponsor its favoured legislation. Liberal Democrat Diana Maddock won its seal of approval for taking action against puppy farming. Labour is not far behind the private member dogsbody Stakes - few tears were shed in Walworth Road at the demise the other week of the oddlysamed Peter Doig, an old Labour MP who pursued dogs with a vigour he otherwise those with owners who can anti-fooling laws wo yet it would pay us canines afford to sojourn overseas - ours ... a dog's life. reserved for denouncing the abolition of hanging.



Jack Russell

If animals have rights, why can't we vote on 1 May? And which party deserves our paw mark?

to peruse the party manifestos with care. George Orwell was right: all animals are not equal. "Animal welfare" could mean stopping dogs on Exmoor getting their teeth into a nice piece of venison. For upper-class dogs - at least

offering freedom from compulsory kennels on their return to these shores, promising to review the quarantine rules without appearing soft on rabies.

For pit bulls, Rottweilers and other aggressive members of the canine cousinage, the Tories will for ever remain the party that introduced the Dangerous Dogs Act which, though now amended, put the mark of Cain on so many innocent if knobbly doggy brows. Beagles and other hunting hounds - who like nothing so much as yapping in a pack before tearing some cornered fox or stag limb from limb will assuredly not be voting Lib Dem or Labour. The latter both promise a free House of Commons vote on banning hunting. Perhaps the Lib Dems redeem themselves in beagle eyes by promising to think about banning the use of dogs in experiments.

For the average mutt, cocking his leg in the street or defe-cating in the children's play area in the park, it is a toss-up between the parties. The Tory manifesto is silent on the matter of turds but sapient dogs will not forget it was Tory councillors in Westminster who pioneered pooper-scoopers - surely a source of canine shame - and it was Tories also, in Wandsworth, who have threatened evictions for letting dogs relieve themselves on

But what self-respecting street dog would not like to sink his gnashers into the calf of Labour's Jack Straw. If he became Home Secretary, his penchant for registration and anti-fouling laws would make

### British honours: the dignity of Ruritania

always been part of the seamy underside of British politics. Politicians from Pitt to Lloyd George dabbled in it, sometimes on a fairly heroic scale. More recently govern-ments, political parties and lobbyists, middlemen and brokers have done their bit to pollute the fount of honour. It is not a pretty sight. But

how do you ban this unseemly trade? There is only one way, and that is to abolish, or at least drastically curtail, the profusion of honours themselves. Internationally, the British love of titles has become an embarrassing joke. At interna-tional meetings, half a dozen plain misters, including those who will take the decision and whose underlings draft the

comminqués, get together with one Brit whose impotence sits

oddly with the grandiloquence of his titles. Domestically, it is more serious still. Orders and titles, their names redolent of feudal privilege and imperial arrogance, subtly convey all sorts of archaic messages. Take, for a start, the Order of the British Empire. Why on earth are we still dignifying and rewarding genuinely worthy persons of all kinds with various ranks as if their work for opera or medicine, for local government or sport, for charity or the music business, had

but long dead empire? The whole honours system is encrusted with barnacies from our feudal, then our imperial, past, and from our continuing fascination with faded glories and insiderish absurdines. Why, for example, should British diplomats be decorated with the Order of St Michael and St

somehow been performed in

the name of this once glorious

George, a relic of the brief British rule over Corfu and the Ionian islands?

A number of hoary arguments are traditionally put for-ward in defence of the whole creaking institution of the honours system. It is said that it is a useful and economical way of rewarding public servants and -a sexist nudge - of mollifying their wives. The argument is as insulting as it is ridiculous. Can we really attract to our public service only those who dream of ending up with the letters CMG ("Call me God") or

**6** Can we really attract to our public service only those who dream of having CMG after their names? 9

GCMG (God calls me God!") after their names, and whose wives would leave them if they would not thereby lose the chance of being called Lady this or Lady that? Most of the ambassadors I have known have been better than that, and so have their wives. Some say that it is good to

reward the unsung heroes of the unglamorous corners of national life. There is more than a little that is patronizing about that argument. To reward one of hundreds of dedicated primary school teachers, a couple out of thousands of admirable nurses, is to tarnish a democratic society's gratitude with a reminder of arbi-

Some honours, after all, are properly given and generally felt to be deserved. Military medals, for a start, given for val-our on the battlefield, are awarded by all democratic society, and most would feel it wrong if we abolished those tributes to a virtue we all admire and need. Most democracies, too, honour outstanding achievement, whether in government or in civil life. But we in Britain honour too many, in too perfunctory a manner, so that real merit is in danger of being half-insulted.

Everyone knows that knighthoods are given, not only for contributing to Tory party funds, but to diplomats and civil servants, to military bureau crats and superannuated politicians who have not quite made it to the top - and for journalists who loyally support the party in power, especially if their newspapers are badly in need of a little honour. Surely, it would be more

decorous if the system were abolished whereby when lawyers feel they are successful enough to charge higher fees. the fiction is entered into that they are counsel to the monarch.

There are few things New Labour could undertake that would be more effective in convincing us that it is serious about wanting to create a New Britain than to take an axe and prune the honours system ruthlessly. Virtue, after all, is its own reward; honour, in a democratic society, comes not from No 10 Downing Street or from Buckingham Place but from the freely given respect of

Godfrey Hodgson



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# business & city

Co-op cost-cutting plan to save millions

Nigel Cope City Correspondent

The Co-operative Wholesale Society is planning a big cost-cutting programme designed to make the poorly performing business more efficient and help head off the approach from Andrew Regan's Lanica

However, the CWS denied that its plans were in response to Lanica's aim to cut £10m be duplicated in the regions. from the society's central costs

the division's non-food busi-nesses proved successful.

The CWS said vesterday that its chief executive. Graham Melmoth, had set up working parties to cut costs when he took

lions of pounds of savings across the board," a spokesman said.
"Not in jobs but through better use of technology and central-

We will be taking out milising certain processes that may

from the society's central costs if its attempt to acquire parts of mass redundancies the CWS

conceded that the issue of staff said it may be looked at as a way numbers would be looked at. said it may be looked at as a way of improving accountability and Any cuts are likely to be through voluntary redundancy

or natural wastage.
In another move which mirrors Lanica's plan to incentivise the Co-op workforce, the CWS is looking at introducing staff incentives. These would take the form of staff discounts.

A profit-sharing scheme along the lines of the one operated by the John Lewis Partnership has not yet been considered. However, the CWS

increasing staff motivation.
The CWS said that though its

costs could be cut it would not be possible to axe £10m from central overheads without jeopardising the Co-op's traditional federal function within the

The CWS is the sheet anchor of the Co-op movement," a spokesman said. "It performs a whole range of roles for the other societies including the harnessing of the buying power as

well as supporting the Co-op-erative Union, which is the administrative centre of the

You could start to reduce costs by chipping away at all of that. But in doing so you would have no CWS. You might as well pack up and go home."

Mr Melmoth is expected to say more on the issue of costs on Monday when he announces the CWS results for last year. These are expected to show that retained profits fell from £49m in 1995 to £30m last year.

As the Co-op Bank is thought to contribute some two-thirds ofthat figure, this means the remaining businesses such as the supermarkets, funeral pariours and travel agencies contributed

"You wonder if they are making a loss in food retailing," said Clive Vaughan of retail consul-

tants Verdict Research. The planned changes by the Co-op will be welcomed by retail experts who say the business has remained rooted in the past for too long.

Mr Vaughan said: "The Co-op's problem is that it doesn't seem to have moved with the times. And if it doesn't, it will start to look like the proverbial

A key part of the transfor-mation would need to be the integration of the disparate group which is spread across 51 different regional societies. These range from tiny operations such as the Brixham Co-op in Devon,

dodo. I don't think Andrew Re-

gan will succeed but he will act

as an agent to accelerate

year, to the CWS where sales

It has also emerged that Lanica Trust has appointed Lowe Bell Financial as an additional public relations adviser. It al-ready has Financial Dynamics acting on its behalf as well us an internal manager. The CWS also has three PR advisors - two external agencies plus an in-ternal PR officer. The banks advising both sides are SBC Warburg for the CWS, and Hambrus for Lanica.

### Labour to call water summit

Chris Godsmark

A clear signal was yesterday given by Labour that it would introduce a tougher regulatory regime on the privatised water companies if the party wins power. In an attempt to turn growing fears of a summer drought crisis into an election issue, Frank Dobson, Labour's environment spokesman, pledged to call an immediate postpoll industry summit on water

shortages.
Mr Dobson said: "On taking office Labour will convene an immediate water summit to thrash out what needs to be audits for homes and publish done in both the short and long term. We will bring together the water companies, the water regulator, the Environment Agency, together with consumer and environmental groups."

He outlined a 10-point list of measures as several water comthe possibility of a drought. Rainfall levels for much of England and Wales in March were negligible, while temperatures this month have been abnormally high. In London there has been no significant rain

since February. At the top of Labour's agenda is a move to set and enforce she said Mr Byatt was likely to tough mandatory leakage tar- receive a detailed document gets." though it was not clear last night whether these would go beyond those already set by Ofwat, which several water groups have found hard to match. Leakage rates in England and Wales in 1996 were around 29 per cent.

Leaked internal documents revealed the company was fighting with Ofwat over criticism of

its record on water wastage. Ofwat ordered Thames to report on its leakage reduction measures every three months, the only one of the water companies to have to do so.

Other Labour policies include a free leakage repair programme for households, a service cur-rently offered by only a limited number of the water groups. Some offer a service for a fixed fee, which averages about £100. Surveys have shown a large proportion of leakages are in pipes from the street to the front door. Labour would also require water firms to give free efficiency leakage levels in the local press.

The industry is already fighting plans by Ofwat, the industry watchdog, to impose substantial one-off price cuts on the 10 privatised water and sewerage companies after 2000. Ian Byatt, the regulator, has indicated panies are already warning of he is likely to make the kind of substantial reduction seen in the gas and electricity industries unless tougher environmental rules are imposed from Brussels.

Ofwat declined to comment on Labour's proposals. "We cannot make any comments during the election period," a spokeswoman said. However, from Yorkshire Water examining "economic levels of leakage" next month which could have said that industry summits were not a new idea, and had been held following the 1995 drought.

Leaked internal documents from Thames Water last week that Labour's windfall tax less than previous market estimates.



Nottingham landmark: Kenneth Clarke (left) and Eddie George made history when they met yesterday

### The Ken and Eddie show goes on tour

Diane Coyle

It was a historic occasion when Kenneth Clarke and Eddie George held their monthly monetary meeting in a tax office in Nottingham yesterday. Not only was it the first time the meeting had been held outside central London, but it could also turn out to be the last episode of what has become known affectionately as the Ken and

said he will take the personality out of interest rate policy, replacing the one-on-one discussion with a clash of two committees, the Treasury team and a new Monetary Policy Committee at the Bank of England. It is a proposal that has not found much favour in the City

of London, where the current arrangements are seen as relatively transparent. Although the outcome of yesterday's For if Labour does win the meeting will not be known un-

til after the Bank's money market operations this morning, and the minutes not published until the end of May, the views of the two protagonists are well

Mr George is thought to have advised an increase in interest rates, as he has every month since November. Most economists think Mr Clarke will once again have rejected the advice because of the closeness of the general election.

The pleasure of sending published from the start of mortgage rates higher will prob-

ably fall to the next chancellor. The monthly chancellorgovernor meetings were intro-

duced at the end of 1992 as part of the new regime established to shore up policy after the ERM debacle. They replaced earlier meetings between Bank and Treasury officials, presumably in a bid to show that, with the two leading actors replacing the understudies, interest rate policy was now being taken seriously. The minutes were

Labour's planned Bank of England policy committee is presented as a means of overcoming the inevitable focus on the personalities of the chancellor and governor - especially when they are as colourful as Ken and Eddie – and any clashes between them.

However, City analysts fear it will reduce the Bank's freedom to recommend unwelcome courses of action, and would have preferred a commitment to an independent

### Rolls to double annual bonuses

Michael Harrison

Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine manufacturer, has decided to double annual bonus payments for top executives because its scheme is no longer competitive with comparable companies. From this year executive di-

rectors will be able to earn annual bonuses equivalent to 40 per cent of their basic salary. The bonus scheme used to pay out a maximum of 20 per cent. If maximum bonuses are

earned this year, Rolls directors could be in line for share payments approaching £800,000. Based on his basic salary last year of £317,000, the company's chairman, Sir Ralph Robins, could receive up to £126,800. Sir Ralph's total pay last year rose by 18 per cent to £393,000. This included an annual bonus

of £49,000, equivalent to 15 per cent of basic pay. Total boardroom pay last year rose 20 per cent to £2.384m. Rolls' annual report and accounts also discloses that the company is replacing its exec-utive share options scheme with

a long-term incentive plan, payable in shares and cash and based on total shareholder return and carnings per share over i rolling three-year period. Enterprise Oil, meanwhile has awarded its chairman, Grabam Hearne, a 16 per cent salary increase this year to f400.000 even though he has handed over part of his dutical to a new chief executive. Pierre

vember when he moves into the role of part-time chairman. Mr Hearne's total pay last year, including a bonus of £122,125, rose 20 per cent to £493,568. Mr Jungels will receive a basic salary of £350,000.

Jungels. Mr Hearne's salary

will drop to £160,000 in No-

### Shell defends environment policy from Pirc attack

Chris Godsmark **Business Correspondent** 

Shell, the Anglo-Dutch oil giant. yesterday launched an unusually outspoken defence of its business reject a special resolution proposed for its annual general meeting by investors critical of its environmental policies. John Jennings, chairman of

the corporation's UK-based arm, Shell Transport and Trading, said he was disappointed with the resolution, which has been drafted by the shareholders' advisory and pressure group. Pire. The attack is likely to be viewed as another indication of Shell's drive towards greater transparency, shedding its sometimes

assault despite earlier meetings with Shell management, he said: "We rather take exception to the resolution. We believe it demonstrates an incomplete

knowledge of what's already being done."

Last night the chances of

Pirc withdrawing the resolution seemed remote. Stuart Bell, the organisation's research director, said: "If the company can demonstrate that all the elements are being dealt with then clearly there's no reason to push on with the resolution. But at our last meeting with Shell. which was just two weeks ago, they gave us no indication that this was the case." The resolution, to be put to

the AGM on 14 May, calls on Shell to put a single, named director in charge of environmental and corporate policies, review the policies and to pub-Clearly frustrated that Pire had decided to press on with the assault despite earlier many. its move had been supported by more than 100 shareholders, speaking for just under 1 per cent of Shell shares.

The resolution follows the

reluctance to take a public stand in 1995 against the Nigerian regime's execution of the Ogoni leader. Ken Saro Wiwa. The group also faced controversy over its plans, later abandoned, to dump the Brent Spar

oil platform at sea. In an attempt to head off a wider shareholder revolt, Mr Jennings appeared to offer significant concessions yesterday. He said Shell aimed to publish a group-wide report outlining the conclusions of a long-running en-vironmental review before the AGML "I don't see the need for the resolution at all," he said. "It's not the right way for ensuring a business is run properly."

He also insisted that most of

the criticisms were already being tackled. In particular, he revealed that Shell was experimenting with outside environmental audits in some parts of its empire, which included the Nigerian and British operations. But he declined to say

worldwide criticism of Shell's which firms of auditors were taking part or which parts of the group were affected. He also added that few auditors had sufficient expertise of environmental work.

election, Gordon Brown has

Pirc, which has been backed by the Church-based shareholders organisation, the Ecumenical Council for Corporate Respon-Shell to argue that it had received no prior warning that the resolu-tion would be tabled. "If they are doing all the things in the resolution, why aren't they supporting the resolution?" said Mr Bell.

Shell Transport's annual report for shareholders, published to-day, also revealed that Mr Jennings' total pay package rose last year by more than 9 per cent to £677,703. His basic salary rose from £470,776 to £496,322, while his performance-related bonus went up by £28,000 to £124,000.
Mark Moody-Stuart, group managing director, saw his total pay rise by more than 6 per cent to



# How green? The Brent Spar oil platform was one focus for critics of Shell's environmental policy INTEREST RATES

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### SFA risk-rating system queried by Large

Michael Harrison

Sir Andrew Large, the chairman of the Securities and Investments Board, has questioned the new system of risk rating for investment banks and securities houses that the Securities and Futures Authority intends to introduce this summer. Under the SFA's new regime,

the 1,370 firms it regulates will be rated on a scale of one to five based on the level of risk involved in their operations and the quality of their management

The new system will be used to determine how tightly firms are regulated, how often they are inspected and how much capital they must put up to cover the exposure in particular mar-kets. Individual firms will be informed of their ratings this

But in a speech to businessmon in Cardiff earlier this week, Sir Andrew, who as SIB chairman is in overall charge of regulating the financial services industry, pointed to some of the drawbacks of such a system and the dangers of misinter-

Sir Andrew said: "If we make judgements about the riskiness in tiens how will we find the right way to inform firms about how risky we think they are, when we have carried out our risk assessment? Feedback to the firm on the key points of the assessment is essential. But should this be done formally through some form of rating or risk profile? And if so, should the firm be told precisely what

it is? And what about the public? Regulatory assessments can easily be misunderstood - one shudders to think of the systemic effect of a run on a bank as a result of an ambiguous reg-ulatory assessment. We need to consider similar issues for nonbank firms."

SIB sources stressed it was strongly in favour of weighting the system of regulation so that firms perceived as being more risky were monitored more closely, visited more regularly and required to put up more

But they were sceptical about sing a formulaic rating system. There are difficulties with cat-egorising a firm from one to five because there is no single number that can encapsulate everything," one said.
The SIB is also thought to be

markets by

concerned about firms using their SFA rating as a marketing tool to attract clients.

An SFA spokesman stressed that the purpose of the rating system was to enable it to decide internally how much attention it needed to pay to individual firms.

The SFA system rates firms in five categories - financial stability, quality of systems and internal control, business, supervisory complexity and quality of personnel and man-agement. Although the SIB is responsible for supervising the work of the SFA, the Financial Services Act gives all the selfregulatory organisations in the City independence from one another and the SIB.

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'No wonder many in the City suspect that the point of Labour's proposals is to create a more compliant Bank of England ... At best the new committee would be

window-dressing'

bonux

Michael Harnson

### Brown's band of Roundheads would not work

Where Ken Clarke is a laughing Cavalier, Gordon Brown is a Roundhead. No matter how sure one is that the stern Scot would run a tighter monetary policy than our would full a benier monetary poucy than our current Chancellor, tough on inflation and tough on the causes of inflation, one is bound to feel a few pangs of regret over the likely demise of the monthly monetary meeting which during its three-year run has provided considerable entertainment. A clash of personalities might not make for woulderful in

sonalities might not make for wonderful in-terest rate policy, but boy has it been fun. Nor is it obvious that the Crombellian committee Chancellor Brown would install at the Bank of England will turn out to make better decisions than we get from the pre-sent system. Labour's advisers emphasise that the point of a Monetary Policy Committee is to get away from the distracting focus on personality. But the suspicion must be that the point is to remove the possibility of a clash - to make sure the Bank of England does not disagree effectively with the Chancellor.

There is after all, a contradiction in Labour's plans for institutional change. Mr Brown would abolish the Treasury's advisory panel, the six wise persons, because its members never agree and cannot give consistent advice. How true – as cynical commentators said when it was first established, that was the entire point of setting up the panel. But he would create a new committee at the Bank. No wonder many in the City suspect that

the point of Labour's proposals is to create a more compliant Bank of England. Certainly the nature of Mr Brown's appointments will be watched like a hawk, although he has already emphasised that they would all be respected experts on monetary policy.

At best the new committee would be window-dressing. If Labour really believes the current arrangements have not served the economy well because of Ken Clarke's cheery disregard for stern advice, Mr Brown should make the Bank independent. Britain is the last big modern economy not to have an independent central bank. Other coun-tries have managed to overcome any diffi-culties about political accountability.

Meanwhile, as Mr Clarke rides off into the Nottinghamshire sunset, he deserves some praise not only for panache in monetary policy, but also for doing a much better job of it than his more cavalier predecessors.

#### Mutual champion deserves to succeed

Acynic would argue that, unlike many others, Alastair Lyons, newly appointed chief executive of National Provident Institution, can afford his strongly pro-mutual principles. He very recently received a near three-quarters of a million pound payoff following Abbey National's takeover of National and Provincial Building Society, so he

tions, long-term incentive plans and bumper salaries that tend to be on offer in proprietary companies. Well, maybe, but the ob-servation is a little unfair, for Mr Lyons was as vehement a defender of mutuality while at National and Provincial as he intends to be in his new job at National Provident.

The pressures for demutualisation among life assurers are very different from those at work among the building societies, but the basic argument in defence of mutuality is much the same - if the customer and the owner of a business are one and the same, then logically the customer is better off since there is no separate class of shareholder that has to be serviced. This assumes, of course, that the mutual is able to match the proprietary company in terms of efficiency and profits, which is not always the case. None the less, the underlying logic of the argument cannot be faulted, so why are so many building societies and life assurers

converting?
With building societies the answer lies with the very substantial free shares windfall that demutualisation is able to deliver to members. With life assurers the case is less clear cut, for with one or two exceptions (notably Norwich Union), conversion doesn't on the whole deliver these upfront gains. To make the case for selling out, the life assurer is generally forced to resort to the argument that it needs more capital in order better to pursue a high-return investdoesn't have to be in awe of the share opment strategy. The gains, such as they are, | cases that really need it.

come on the reversionary and terminal bonuses. But who's to say the life assurer wouldn't have delivered these gains anyway over the lifetime of these policies?

Mr Lyons believes he can find new capital to support his growth and investment strategy without actually selling the business. He doesn't pretend it won't be hard, for National Provident lacks the financial strength of the two other firmly committed life mutuals, Standard Life and Scottish Widows. But he does think he can provide a viable mutual future, with clear advantages over an outright sale to Australian Mutual or some such other. Like those building societies that have chosen to stay mutual, he's going to have to find a way of demonstrating the advantages of mutuality to pol-icyholders by offering tangible mutual ben-efits. Let's hope he succeeds.

#### Risk-ratings could turn out to be a nightmare

here's plainly a difference of opinion be-I tween the Securities and Investments Board (SIB) and the Securities and Futures Anthority (SFA) over whether to risk-assess City investment banks and stockbrokers. The SFA sees risk assessment as a way of lightening the regulatory load on low-risk firms with adequate internal controls, allowing scarce resources to be concentrated on the

By contrast the SFA's parent body, the SIB sees dangers in such an approach. It would clearly be very damaging for any firm to receive an adverse rating. As Andrew Large, the SIB's chairman, has pointed out, the effect might be similar to an adverse credit assessment on a bank, causing a run on deposits. Firms in receipt of a favourable rating, on the other hand, would be tempted

to use it as a marketing tool.

The SFA arguably has too much power already. There has been a notable increase in recent years in the volume of complaints among City firms about supposedly oppressive regulation. The introduction of a publicly disclosed rating system would give the SFA the power to play God, to make or break companies and livelihoods. Obvi-ously the City needs to be effectively regulated, but that cannot be right.

The SFA is already far too commonly used as a competitive tool in the City. If you don't like what your rival is doing, it is all too easy to stop it with a call to the SFA. Quite fre-quently the effect is to stifle perfectly legitimate innovation. The imposition of a rating system would be a much more sinister development, for it should be customers and clients, not big-brother regulators, who decide on whether a company is worth doing business with. What are the criteria the SFA is planning to use, and will there be channels of appeal? The whole thing sounds like a nightmare, and in truth is unlikely to be of much assistance to anyone.

IN BRIEF Lincoln Unit Trust Managers fined by Imro

Imro, the UK investments watchdog, has fined Lincoln Unit Trust Managers and LIV a total of £20,000. It said Lincoln breached

Imro rules by not paying about a quarter of money received from around 700 personal equity plan (PEP) applications, into a client money bank account within the required period between January 1994 and January 1995. It added that between April 1993 and

February 1995, Lincoln did not have adequate procedures for monitoring that orders were executed as soon as reasonably practi-cable. It said LIV did not adequately monitor the suitability of investments or the propriety of allocations. At the time of the breaches LIV was a fund manager with portfolios of approximately

£1.1bn. Lincoln, an authorised trust manager, ran nine unit trusts and PEPs. Both firms have remedied the deficiencies and will

18 indicted over US stock fraud

pay costs of £30,000.

### Lyons' share for career changes adds up to £1.1m

John Willcock

Alastair Lyons has been appointed chief executive of NPL a mutual pensions company, days after receiving a £740,000 pay-off from Abbey National. And he has clinched another favourable employment deal, with a salary of £325,000 from NPI on an initial 18-month

contract. He made a name for himself by fighting hard to keep Na-tional & Provincial Building Society independent when it sought a partner over a year ago, but N&P was eventually bought by Abbey National. Mr Lyons stayed on as managing director of Abbey's insurance division and played a key role in merg-ing the two institutions.

His new role will again be high profile, as NPI is being stalked by Australian Mutual Provident. City sources sugest a selling price of around 2bn if AMP is successful.

Mr Lyons said yesterday he intended to champion NPI's status as an independent, mutual company: "I've come into this business to build it, not sell it. "I'm a passionate believer in

the customer since there is no for N&P. "N&P's branches and sharing of the value created in the company with a third party - shareholders."

Mr Lyons will succeed Kevin McBrien as chief executive of NPL The company is based in Tonbridge in Kent and has around £10bn under management, with 390,000 policyholders. It sells its products through

independent financial advisers. NPI said Mr McBrien would retire from the board at the beginning of July and Mr Lyons would take up the post of chief executive in June.

Mr Lyons said: "I enjoyed working with Peter Birch [chief executive of Abbey National; surance companies had con-lt was a great period. I always said to Peter that I wanted to left future generations with a lot be chief executive of my own business at some point; but notbefore N&P was fully integrated with Abbey."

He said that long-term savings were the fastest-growing area of financial services because of demographic reasons. "Because of our relative small size [at NPI] we can run rings

around the competition."

Mr Lyons denied that he was

advisers needed investment, meant we couldn't sustain that investment. That is why we decided we needed a partner, which meant we needed to demutualise.

"NPI is completely different. It is a tightly focused business which doesn't need to demutualise."

Despite his enthusiasm for mutuality, Mr Lyons denies that the current wave of conversions to plc status among building societies and insurers

has gone too far.
"If all the societies and inof choice over financial services. What these conversions have done is to act as a very healthy catalyst to force the remaining mutuals to be more competi-

Halifax, Woolwich and Alliance & Leicester building societies are converting this year. Mr Lyons said that while he did not know which direction they would take, their managements doing a U-turn on mutuality, having caved in to Abbey's bid they had already converted.



No U-turn: Alastair Lyons denies that the wave of conversions to pics has gone too far

### mutuality. It's the best deal for Exchange rate averaging boosts RMC

**Tom Stevenson** City Editor

K-Patt

quera

:31.56

lating its overseas earnings at everage exchange rates rather than using the pound's sky-high year-end value. The ready-mixed concrete and quarrying group said it was one of the last companies in the FTSE 100 index to make the move although it admitted its decision had been influenced by the extreme volatility of the foreign exchange markets last year.

Even using the new ac-counting method, RMC announced a sharp fall in profits, from £324.9m to £295.3m, after a slump in Germany, which

duction in sales volumes in the former eastern states since reunification and the challenge of cheap concrete imports from

On the old translation basis and Israeli operations. Profits of cent to 26.5p.

with a vengeance", having got over the Mexican financial cri-

sis of 1994/95. Investors believe

that economic recovery will con-

tinue in the area, fuelled by low-

er inflation, greater control of

budget deficits and positive

growth. Once seen as being tied

to the US economy, the view was

increasingly that the area could

weather a correction in either US

interest rates or on Wall Street.

Poland and Hungary are look-

ing over-priced compared with

six months ago, Eastern Europe

is still seen as offering some of

the best opportunities among

emerging markets, Smaller, so-

called frontier markets, such as

Slovakia, Ukraine and Croatia

are also attracting some inter-

est, the survey shows.

Despite some signs that

At home profits fell slightly to £72.8m (£76.8m) as the construction industry continued to struggle against a lack of significant recovery in the new housing market, government cutbacks in finance for new roads and slower progress than hoped for on the private finance

Mr Young called on the next and 15 per cent in Spain.

"There are no votes in putting anything right in this country," he said. There will be in 10 years when the whole place is gridlocked; by then it will take another 20 years to catch up."

Describing the UK attitude to public sector construction as "a morass of mis-information", he called on the Government to settle on a transport policy that would include road and rail. He said, however, he had little confidence that such a policy would emers

RMC said it would be interested in acquiring the French aggregates operations recently put up for sale by Redland, but doubted whether its British rival was yet realistic about the price a bidder would pay.

### Alliance share sale forms lost in the post Clifford German

Several thousand members of the Alliance & Leicester were still complaining vesterday that they have not received forms allowing them to choose to sell their shares immediately for cash or to keep the shares.

The forms have to be returned by today if investors want their shares put into the auction being conducted by brokers Cazenove at the start of trading in the shares on 21 April. Members have also complained that they they have been unable to get through on the cus-

tomer hotline set up by Alliance & Leicester, and fax facilities have become overloaded. A spokesman for the society said yesterday that as the Royal Mail can only guarantee to deliver 98.8 per cent of mail posted, it was inevitable that some packs would have gone astray out of the 23 million posted last month. He also admitted that the customer hotline

could have been busy at times,

especially immediately after the Easter holiday. Because of the tight deadline there is no possibility of ex-tending the time limit for returning forms in time to participate in the free sale.

But A&L is auxious to reassure customers who want to keep their shares that they will not lose their entitlement if they have not returned their blue or orange forms by today's

They will still be able to claim their shares at any time, and to choose whether to accept the offer of a nominee account

A federal grand jury in New York indicted 18 people arrested for penny-stock fraud following an FBI sting operation in October. Mary Jo White, the US Attorney in New York, said that, if convicted, the people could face maximum prison sentences ranging from five to 20 years and fines ranging from \$250,000 to more than \$1m. Those indicted are among 45 people arrested by Federal agents in a nationwide crackdown on fraudulent stock sales. The arrests were the most ever in a stock fraud case. A total of 22 people have now been indicted, according to Bruce Ohr, one of the assistant US attorneys in charge of the prosecutions. Trial dates have not yet been scheduled.

### Omnicom makes giant PR acquisition

Omnicom, one of the the world's largest public relations companies has confirmed its status by buying Fleischman-Hillard, the sixth largest company world-wide, in a deal valued at up to \$100m (£62m). Fleischman-Hillard will be combined with Porter Novelli International, already owned by Omnicom, with Fleischman-Hillard's chairman John Graham as chairman and ceo.

### Eastern aims to increase gas customers

Eastern Group, the power company, said it aimed to double the rate of growth in its domestic gas business in trials of residential competition under way in the South of England. Jim Whelan, Eastem's director of energy trading, said the group had 75,000 domestic gas customers in the three uial areas, giving it one of the largest market shares after British Gas. He said he wanted to sign up new customers at the rate of 6,000 a month, up from the curup new enstomers at the rate of 0,000 a month, up from the current average of 3,000 a month. "We intend to grow this business quite aggressively," he added. Eastern also announced plans to join with Rolls-Royce in a risk-sharing venture to supply gas to a power station project in the Midlands. The site, likely to cost about £35m to build, will use two Rolls-Royce turbines derived from the Trent aero-engine. Eastern will supply gas in a 15-year contract starting next year.

### Japan ready to act over fluctuating ven

Recent movements of the ven in the foreign exchange market had been excessive and Japan would take appropriate measures in a timely manner, Japan's Vice Finance Minister, Tadashi Ogawa, said. Asked whether Japan and the US shared the same view on currencies, Mr Ogawa said: "We are of course keeping in close contact with US authorities." Senior Ministry of Finance official, Eisuke Sakakibara, said intervention in foreign exchange markets by Japanese authorities was possible if exchange rates deviated greatly from economic fundamentals. Mr Sakakibara said the Group of Seven nations agreed at their February meeting in Berlin that exchange rates should reflect fundamentals, and should move in a stable manner and not excessively. "We are concerned [recent movements] have become too excessive," he added.

### NTT and MCI plan world-wide Net service

Two prime Internet service providers in Japan and the US are to launch a joint venture to enable overseas travellers to access the Internet without contracting with a local Internet provider. The service provided by NTT Data of Japan and MCI of the US would save cut costs for overseas business travellers by sparing them the need to make expensive international calls to log on to the Net. A Japanese traveller to the US using the Internet for one hour during business hours would pay about ¥2,000 (£10) compared with the ¥7.800 charge for a one-hour international call. The new service is to be available in Japan and the United States in July, and later in Europe and other parts of Asia. NTT Data said it aimed to become the number one Internet service provider in Japan in the near future. MCI said that it planned to boost its annual revenues from Internet services to \$2bn by 2000, representing about 6 per cent of total revenues by that date.

### Shareholders authorise Rank buy back

Sir Denys Henderson, chairman of Rank Group, said that the UK's largest leisure company made generally good progress in the first quarter. Addressing the annual general meeting he said it had been a quiet period for video releases, and lower operating profit in video duplication has broadly offset increases elsewhere. "Our plans are ambitious and the outlook for the company is promising," he added. Shareholders authorised the company to make market purchases of up to 10 per cent of its ordinary shares. Sir Denys said: Whilst we have no immediate plan to exercise these powers, they represent an important additional option to ensure that we are in a position to deliver the best value to our shareholders".

### Safeway launches home shopping service

Saleway is launching its first home shopping service, following similar ventures by Sainsbury's, Tesco and Somerfield. It claims to be the first such service to offer weekly personalised shopping lists. Using a ready-made personalised shopping list, based on previous purchases, customers will be able to pre-order, by phone or fax, their household goods. Collect & Go staff will then select the shopor the actual share certificate. I ping at the store leaving it ready for collection by the shopper.

RMC gave last year's profits a £20m boost yesterday by trans-

traditionally provides more than strong German workforce by

**Magnus** Grimond

Russia is leading emerging

markets back to favour among

international fund managers

after three years of under-

performance, according to a sur-

Among the most bullish

about the country, Edinburgh

Fund Managers is forecasting that the Russian market will out-

perform the hest Asian market

by 20 per cent this year. And

there is widespread belief

among other professional in-

Vestors that it will emerge as the strongest performer in 1997.

The findings come from the

dicted by Burson-Marsteller,

the public relations consultancy.

0735 emerging market investors the manage 70 per cent of all

vey published yesterday.

economy and poor winter weather in the first half. RMC shares closed 7.5p lower at 993.5p, well below the peak of f11.95p reached last September. Peter Young, chief execu-

tive, said he expected further falls in volumes this year in Germany although at a slower rate than last year which saw reductions of up to 9 per cent. Profits in Germany tumbled from £187.5m to £139.6m, mirroring the large drop in German profits announced recently by Redland, the other British construction materials company with a large exposure to that

RMC has reduced its 12,000-

Russia leads emerging

It comes ahead of the arrival

in London next week of six of

Russia's leading companies, including the GUM retailing

group and Surgumestegaz, the

second-largest oil group, on a roadshow to encourage UK in-

stitutions to invest more in the

Explaining the new enthusi-asm for Russia, Paul Philipotis,

Burson-Marsteller's managing

director, said: "Six months ago,

institutions thought other parts

of Eastern Europe were good investments. They now see Rus-

sia as a good buy. It's under-valued. Also the election means

that politically it has become

survey also showed that Latin

Mr Philipotts added that the

more stable."

portfolio investment in devel- America was "definitely back

markets back to favour

oping markets.

half the company's profits but about 1,400 in the past 18 was hit last year by a slowing months to cope with the first re-Poland.

> RMC's figures were at the top end of analysts' expectations as weakness in Germany and France was offset by strong performances from American £275.8m compared with expec-tations of as low as £250m, struck from flat turnover of £4.08bn. Earnings per share fell from 80.3p to 68.9p, but the company's conservative dividend cover meant the payout could still be increased by 6 per

initiative.

government to reverse Britain's consistent under-investment in infrastructure spending, which he said had created a con-struction industry in this country only one third the size of that in Germany. The industry represented only 8 per cent of gross domestic product in Britain compared with 12 per cent of a larger economy in Germany

Chris Godsmark

The union, which has around 75,000 members in the telecommunications industry, admitted Labour may have to include the group in the tax net for legal reasons but insisted it had shed most of its utility trappings and should be treated more leniently.

had contributed £8bn to Treasury coffers in corporation tax. He said: "The pragmatic realisation is that there is going to be a windfall tax. BT has been well regulated and consumers have benefited. Those factors ought to have been taken into account by Labour."

union's strategy for the industry urges the next government to remove the ban on BT and Mercury broadcasting entertainment services down their phone wires. It also argues for an end to the ban on BT offering radio technology for fixed phone lines, a system used by the fast-growing phone company lonica.

### CWU urges Labour to 'go easy on BT'

Business Correspondent

British Telecom should escape the full force of Labour's proposed windfall tax on the privatised utilities, the Communication Workers' Union urged yesterday in a policy document demanding an end to many of the regulatory restrictions of the phone company's business.

The document outlining the

Another proposal is to allow BT to buy the 40 per cent of the Cellnet mobile network off its

Tony Young, the CWU's joint general secretary, said BT was already tightly regulated and partner, Securicor.

### Adidas investors in £1bn bonanza

Jim Levi

Adidas vesterday announced that one of its main shareholders was disposing of almost 12 million shares, worth £750m. The sale will in effect make the original £200m invested four years ago by Robert Louis-Dreyfus and four others for a 76 per cent stake in the then loss-making German sports-

wear giant worth £1.1bn.

Mr Louis-Dreyfus, the 50year-old former chief executive
of the Saatchi & Saatchi advertising agency who once dated Kim Basinger, acquired his stake in Adidas for a reputed £200m from the controversial French entrepreneur-turnedpolitician. Bernard Tapie, and bankers Credit Lyonnais in April 1993. At the time the company was racking up losses of more than £60m a year.

Two years later he was able to sell 50 per cent of the shares in the company for £600m in a global public offering to leading financial institutions. The flotation followed a dramatic recovery in the company's sales and profits.

Last month Mr Louis-Dreyfus was able to disclose a further profits spurt in company. During 1996 sales soared by 75 per cent to DM4.7bn (£1.7bn) and profits surged by 50 per cent to DM440m (£160m).

Both the Olympics in Atlanta. Georgia and the Euro 96 football championships in the UK proved a winning forum for the Adidas brand. The victorious German soccer team all wore Adidas products as did no fewer

than 220 Olympic medallists. Now,with Adidas shares riding high at around DM185, the final 26 per cent stake in the company held through a private Belgian company, Sogedim, is being sold for an additional £750m. It makes the profit on the venture shared between four men and one woman work out at around £900m.



Given the boot: Robert Louis-Dreyfus has disposed of 12 million shares in Adidas at a vast profit

Louis Dreyfus in his first business venture - a market research company specialising in the pharmaceutical industry. ut at around £900m. Mr Bromilow now lives near
David Bromilow, 54, a littleBangkok and his son Charles

runs Adidas in Singapore. Mr Bromilow and and two other backers, Tom Russell, a Florishare of the profits of £427m on the original shares floration Mary Friday, former secretary He was a partner with Mr to Mr Louis-Dreyfus and now a lawyer in South Carolina, share a further £325m of the spoils between them.

But for Mr Louis-Dreyfus personally, this is not a sell-out. He and Adidas boardroom colleague, Christian Tourres, the two driving forces in the business, have agreed to retain half the Sogedim shares on offer and hold them as private individuals. The rest will be sold to other global financial institutions through a bookbuilding opera-tion organised by Union Bank of Switzerland. UBS was confident the placing would be quickly completed last night.

To underline his success in transforming Adidas, Mr Louis-Dreyfus last night released firstquarter figures for 1997, showing sales up another 42 per cent at DM1.7bn and profits 37 per cent ahead at DM235m. Last autumn, Mr Louis-

Dreyfus signed another highprofile marketing agreement to sponsor the soccer World Cup in France next year.

### Good trial results boost Glaxo shares

**Magnus Grimond** 

There was good news for both ends of the healthcare sector yesterday. Glaxo Wellcome announced encouraging results to offspring. for its new hepatitis B treatment and medical products minnow Biocompatibles International received the all-clear to launch a follow-on to its successful Proclear durable product into the fast-growing US market

for replacement contact lenses. The news was worth 20p for Glaxo's share price, taking it to £11.08, while Biocompatibles jumped 82.5p to £13.75.

The results of the latest clinical trials into the effectiveness of lamivudine, hetter known as Epivir, the anti-Aids drug, on the hepatitis B virus were well received by analysts, although forecasts of eventual sales vary widely from £250m up to £3bn or more.

They will form part of a regulatory filing in Asia later this year, the first time the drugs group has asked for official approval for a new drug in the East rather than the West.

Glaxo said a study of 358 Asian patients overseen by Professor C L Lai of Hong Kong had shown that between 59 and 67 per cent of chronic sufferers had shown improvements to their livers, the organ attacked by the disease, after using the orally administered drug for a period of 12 months.

This compared with only 30 per cent of those using placebo drugs whose liver condition improved.

The tests involved taking

and a Fleece Jacket

People at 50 today have a

much greater life expectancy

than any previous generation.

A diet high in vital nutrients,

and regular exercise will help

you to stay healthy into your

50's, 60's and beyond. So

Seven Seas has developed

Action Plan 50+, a new range

of health supplements to help

symptoms of the disease, which bodily fluids and from mothers

Glaxo said the results also compared well with the current treatment using interferon, where the equivalent percentage was more like 30 to 40

Other tests showed that 16 per cent of patients using lamivudine resulted in unde-

**Lamivudine** has the greatest commercial potential of any drug in Glaxo's short-term pipeline 9

tectable levels of the hepatitis B antigen in the blood, an indicator of the extent of the virus in the body.

The potential market for lamivudine is huge. Hepatitis is carried by 350 million people around the world, of whom 95 per cent are in developing countries, particularly Asia, and 2

million die every year. Glaxo said definitive conclusions on the product would have to await further analysis, biopsies of the livers of the patients involved to seek out the as "extremely encouraging".

\* THE INDEPENDENT

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pack of Action Plan 50+ And answer the simple

Cally cost Sup per manuse at all times. Winner picked at random after lines close 19th April 14, I suil Newspaper Publishing rifes apply. Editors decision to final

General Health Formula plus question on line.

Analysts said the test results can lead to both fatal cirrhosis were in line with expectations, - or scarring - and cancer and but their view of the prospects is passed on like Aids through for lamivudine differ hugely. Stewart Adkins at Lehman Brothers has described lamivudine as having "the greatest commercial potential of any drug in Glaxo's short-term pipeline". Others, however, warned that the sample size was small and Glaxo still had to deal with pricing issues in the main

> expensive drugs. One analyst suggested the company might effectively have to give the new drug away in developing markets. Glaxo said it was "discussing how to make the product available in China", probably the biggest potential market anywhere but with limited resources.

> developing country markets,

which are less able to pay for

Lamívudine was discovered by BioChem Pharma, a Canadian company, and licensed to Glaxo. SmithKline Beecham of the UK and two US companies, Gilead and Bristol Myers Squibb, are developing rival hepatitis B treatments, but they are at an earlier stage than Glaxo.

Separately, Biocompatibles said it had won approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to market its new Proclear Compatibles monthly replacement contract lens products. Launched in the UK and northern Europe in February, the authorisation opens up the \$800m US soft lens market. The group's Pro-clear durable lens, which has been on the market for two years, achieved £3m sales out of the group's £11m total for 1996.

Pru sells

Vita firm

Prudential yesterday struck its second deal in a week, selling

its Italian life assurance com-

pany, Prudential Vita, to Royal

The move follows Pru's deci-

sion to top up its stake in J Roth-

schild Assurance to 29.9 per cent

Keith Bedell-Pearce. Pru's

director of international de-

& Sun Alliance for £46m.

at a cost of around £30m.

#### IN BRIEF

#### Profits rise at Rathbone Brothers

Rathbone Brothers, the banking and financial advisory services group, announced an increase in taxable profits for last year from £7.36m to £9.61m. The final dividend is 7.5p, lifting the total payout from 10p to 11.5p. Oliver Stanley, chairman, said all parts of the group made good progress, especially Laurence Keen since its acquisition in 1995. The purchase of Neilson Cobbold would produce earnings enhancement from 1997, he said. Mr Stanley is to step down and will be succeeded by Micky Ingall.

### All systems go at Tracker Network

Tracker Network, the provider of systems to aid the recovery of stolen vehicles, moved from losses of £1.6m to taxable profits of £210,000 last year. Earnings per share were 4p, compared with losses of 30.5p. Ralph Kanter, chairman, said: "The new year has started positively, with unit sales in the first quarter up 20 per cent on the same period in 1996." Recoveries of stolen vehicles fitted with the Tracker system exceed 1,750, and the total value of stolen vehicles recovered as a result is estimated to exceed £21m.

### Reflec poised to buy group of companies

Reflec said it planned to buy an unnamed group of companies involved in the processing of micro-particles for the chemicals plastics industries for around £2.5m. The company has suspended dealings in its shares on the Alternative Investment Market pending the conclusion of the deal, which is expected late next month and which will be funded by an issue of shares.

### Premier expands interest in Kyle block

Premier Oil has acquired a further 15 per cent interest in Block 29/2c, which includes the Kyle Field, from Mobil North Sea for an undisclosed sum. This brings Premier's interest in the block to 35 per cent. Following the disposal by Mobil, Premier Oil said the remaining partners, under the operational control of Ranger planned to complete the appraisal of Kyle with a further well in 1997 followed by an extended well test, leading to early development of the field. Premier said the purchase marked a new phase in its presence in the North Sea where, in the short term, it would concentrate on a limited number of core areas.

### Avocet Mining boosts gold operations

Avocet Mining has expanded its gold operations in Malaysia by acquiring a 60 per cent stake in Damar Consolidated Exploration. The company also has an option to purchase a further 36.8 per cent stake in the next two years. Funding for the 60 per cent stake will come from an issue of 1.1 million Avocet shares, worth more slightly more than £2.23m. The acquisition provides Avocet with additional acreage in the vicinity of its Penjom mine.

### Losses fall at Wyefield

Wyefield, the maker of upholstered furniture, reported a fall in first-half losses from £491,000 to £337,000, but said the value of net assets had fallen below 50 per cent of the issued share capital. Preston Rabl, chairman, explaining the fall in net assets, said:
"The performance of the group continues to improve but the third quarter is not as yet profitable." He said new models introduced were beginning to succeed, but during the quarter to March the UK market place had been flat and Germany remained difficult."However, it is expected that the fourth quarter, although traditionally weak, will show an improvement on the third," Mr

### Swallowfield puts on a confident face

Swallowfield, the maker of aerosols and cosmetic products, increased profits before tax in 1996 from £2,69m to £3.5m. Total dividend is raised from 6.5p to 7.3p through a 4.3p final payment. The company said 1997 had started well and it was confident that progress made last year would continue.

velopment, said: "The sale of	Company Results				
our Italian operations com- pletes the disposal of our rela-		Tamover £	Pre-tax £	EPS	Dividend
tively small life companies in	CLA Caroup (F)	774m (508m)	4.9m (6.7m)	3.230 (7.850)	2.350
continental Europe. For the moment our strategic focus is on	Franch Connection (F)	83m (70.7m)	6.3m (3.34m)	17.8p (10p)	2.75p (2.0p)
the UK, US and Asia Pacific.*	Friendly Hotals (F)	45.2m (43m)	4.47m (-6.26m)	10.7p (-40.7p)	5.7p (5.7p)
Prudential Vita's premium in-	Rathbons Brothers (F)	35.8m (28m)	9.61m (7.36m)	24.87p (21.31p)	11:5p (10p)
COME was £52m last year while I	RIMC Group (F)	4.6bn (4.5bn)	296.2m (337.1m)	68.9p (80.3p)	26.5p (25.05p)
Royal & Sun's Italian operations produced £13m. David Barker,	Smallendield (F)	43.4m (37m)	3.5m (2.69m)	18.19 (13.5p)	7.3p (6.5p)
Royal's head of international life	Tracker Heterork (F)	10,4m (8,5m)	210.000 (-1.6m)	4.0p (-30.5p)	ni
operations, said: "We view the	Wysfield (f)	8.28m (8.31m)	-337,000 (-491,000)	-1.3p (-1.9p)	nž.
Italian market very positively."	(F) - Pingi (I) - Interior	(M) - fine mont	hs.		

### THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

### Question mark over RMC as German boom fades away

couple of years back no-A one had a had word for RMC as it rode what history has proved to be an artificial boom in Germany's massive construction market. lax breaks and the after-effects of reunification created a couple of bumper years in 1994 and 1995 and because it is basically a better business than the other big British player in Germany, Redland, RMC cashed in.

Now there are question marks over the company that never existed before. The change in exchange rate policy yesterday looked dangerously like an attempt to boost profits artificially at the end of a difficult year and analysts are starting to grumble, rightly, about the company's old-school presentational style, which means an archeological dig is required to get to essential information such as individual country sales and profit contributions.

The other real concern about RMC is that it is over-exposed to one huge but troubled economy. The company says Germany accounts for about a third of Europe's construction spending so it is right that it should represent a similar proportion of RMC's turnover. But if the mid-1990s boom proves to be unrepeatable, as some brokers now fear given the stringent de-mands of EMU qualification, RMC needs to beef up its operations elsewhere.

Chief executive Peter Young points to the US, but it only represents a tenth of sales. Its operations in Europe outside France and Germany are going well, as is Israel, but they are too small in group terms to make a real difference. At home, the second-biggest market, the government's refusal to reverse the massive underinvestment in the country's physical fabric means the UK can hardly be relied on to provide any growth.

RMC is a very conservative organisation and has traditionally shunned the sort of expansion by acquisition that has seen Irish rival CRH grow from nowhere to become one of the industry's dominant players. There is nothing wrong with the company's preferred route of investing heavily in its existing businesses, but it is a much longer process and time is not on its side. The company's shares have

fallen almost £2 from their peak last September of 1195p, when the market quite simply misread what was going on in Germany, At 996.5p. down 4.5p yesterday, they trade on 13.5 times forecast carnings for 1998 on the basis of expected profits of £345m after £310m this year. That compares with a

sector average for 1998 of 11.9. That sort of premium only makes sense if you believe either the company's management is vastly superior to the competition or Germany is about to pick up faster than people fear or both. This is a well-run company, but that sort of rating leaves no room for error. Expensive.

#### Welcome profits from Friendly

Tew management led by chief executive Tony Potter are at last starting to make a difference to Friendly Hotels. After less than a year in the hot seat, the former veteran of Ladbroke and Hilton International has raised occupancy in the hotels business from 61.8 per cent to 63.1 per cent last year and average room rates by 5 per cent to £31.41.

The performance is still below the industry's best. particularly up-market groups operating in London where riendly is absent, but things are clearly moving in the right

In the first quarter of the current year. Mr Potter has added another 2 percentage points to occupancy and a very handy 11 per cent to room rates.

Although Friendly returned to black in the year to last Christmas Eve. reporting profits of £4.47m to replace losses of £6.86m yesterday, the underlying improvement is obscured by the continuing presence of the loss-making serviced office business. The decision to sell that operation led to a £9,6m charge in 1995. but the good news is that Friendly is now in talks with a publicly quoted and sub-

stantial buver. Stripping out the offices, the wholly owned hotels operation raised its profits £4.82m to £5.52m last year. The business, situated in the cutthroat middle market, has clearly benefited from the master franchising agreement with Choice Hotels International, one of the biggest US groups, agreed last year.

The hotels are all now rebranded as either Comfort Inns or Quality Hotels and Mr Potter says that up to a quarter of the business now comes via the Choice net-

Meanwhile, expansion of the group's 56-strong chain

continues apace.

Profits of £5.4m this year would put the shares, down 25p at 154p, on a forward multiple of 13. Reasonable

#### RMC: At a glance

Five-year record Dividends per share (pence) 19.3 20.3 22.2 25.1 28.6

Profit by region (2m)

Share price (perce) 700 600

### Stylish season for French Connection

That a difference a year makes. Twelve months ago fashion group French Connection was looking distinctly frayed at the edges. Two profits warnings dur-ing 1995 had knocked the shares down to 149p and investors were wary after problems in the US and the wholesaling division.

Since then the group's fortunes have been

resurgent. Upbeat trading statements have helped the shares to double in value in the year and they surged to a high of 345p this week. With full-year profits just ahead of expectations at £6.2m profit taking yesterday sliced 20p off the stock to 325p.

Even so, the French Connection recovery has been impressive. The French Connection and Nicole Farhi retail formats have traded well with like-for-like sales up by 21.6 per cent across the group, though this was from a low base the previous year. The sales were boosted by better product, competitive pricing and the more buoyant mood on the high street.

With much of the cost base fixed, the higher sales dropped through to the bottom line and profits in the retail division shot from £800,000 to £2.9m in the year. Current trading is more mixed, with the UK still showing same store sales growth of 20 per cent. But in the US the spring season has been slower.

Looking forward the group is planning to add to its portfolio of 29 UK stores and 13 in the US. Four more will open in each region this year, increasing the selling space by 30 per cent. It also plans to extend its franchise operation with three stores this year. More concessions will open in Denmark while the Hong Kong business will be developed. The aim is to make both French Connec-

tion and Nicole Farhi global brands and chairman Stephen Marks is currently visiting Japan to develop the concept there.

On Nat West's forecasts of £7.3m this year

the shares trade on a forward rating of 16. After the recent run that is probably about right.

### Dispute with network eats into profits at CIA

**Chris Hughes** 

A dispute with the ITV network and a disposal costing £2.6m forced annual pre-tax profits at CIA, the advertising space and airtime buyer, down 26 per cent to £4.9m. However, underlying pre-tax profits were up 12 per cent to £7.5m and the group said it was confident bout prospects.

The group reached a £2m settlement with the ITV network after it committed itself to deals it could not fulfil. It is understood the settlement was less than the value of the deals,

Chris Ingram, chairman, said the dispute was costly both in terms of senior management time and money, but added: "It's very much behind us now. We have made changes to ensure it does not happen again. The experience has not been without some benefit."

The disposal of the group's interest in Mansfield Lang Direct Media cost £600,000.

Turnover in 1996 jumped 28 CIA would buy other media per cent to £774m in a global market estimated to have grown by 7 per cent. Overseas turnover climbed 69 per cent to make up two-fifths of the total.

The total volume of billings placed by the group was up 27 per cent to £1.15bn. Overseas operating profits grew 23 per cent, while UK operating profits grew 9 per cent before exceptional costs.

"It was a solid UK performance, but it was not a storming year," said Mr Ingram. erseas turnover will grow faster than UK turnover, but we still expect growth in the UK market.

CIA said it aimed to make the world's top six media buyers within four years. It is currently 14th and has a market share of less than 5 per cent.

"It is an expensive market to enter. This will result in a period of consolidation. We are in an exceptionally strong posi-tion," Mr Ingram said.

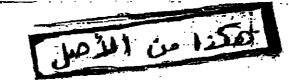
independents and reduce its dependence on the traditional media buying business, he said.

Investment activities include
CIA Televisual, which develops

the television version of advertorials", programmes where the advertiser has a say in the programme's content. It is also developing web site marketing. Television advertisements

were becoming less influential with the growth of programme sponsorship and subscription television, Mr Ingram said, CIA was in the process of becoming an all-round, international media communications agency rather than a media buyer.

We could wait to see what other people do, but we want to use the new technology first." Earnings per share were down 58 per cent to 3.23n, but the final dividend was raised from 1.62p to 1.77p, slashing retained profits from £2.2m to £360,000. Shares closed up 5p at 161.5p.



### market report / shares

at the BEST of

Data Bank -FTSE 100 4313.2 +20.9 **FTSE 250** +4.7

4544.3 **FTSE 350** 2125.1 +8.5 SEAQ VOLUME 705.8m shares. 40,990 bargains



Labour's confusion is a windfall for utilities stocks

Utilities provided the excitement as Footsie climbed above 4,300 points. Buy signals from In the past few weeks former the Schroders investment house and Labour's sudden display of confusion over the scope of the threatened windfall tax produced determined buying with United Utilities leading the way, up 26.5p to

670p. Schroders was thought to be telling clients water shares could experience a 20 per cent upside with UU identified as

its preferred investment.
Uncertainty over the extent of Labour's much heralded tax and, indeed, doubts about its privatisation policy spread

the buying throughout the for-mer nationalised groups.

Much of the interest ap-

nationalised groups have ben-efited from a dramatic change in the stock market's estimates of the impact of a Labour government. Panmure Gor-don, UBS and Crédit Lyonnais Laing have played down the damage of a windfall tax and

the prospect of greater regu-latory interference if Mr Blair makes it to No 10. There is a feeling any changes will have little relevance to dividend growth and some even believe they could prove beneficial.

The outbreak of interest in prices responding to the tilities is the first time the elecutilities is the first time the election campaign has provided The main utilities made Wellcome rose 20p to 1,108.5p any significant excitement in progress with the leading wa- on encouraging trials of its



MARKET REPORT DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year volatile times and the market British Airways 11p to 656.5p

has also been much more tense. The extent of the Labour lead in the opinion polls has blunted the election shenanigans. But if the Labour advantage continues to de-cline and the party remains split on the windfall tax and pri-vatisation then shares could wake up to the election with

and Railtrack 10p to 429.5p. Footsie ended 20.9 points, higher at 4,313.2 with a hesitant New York opening shrugged aside.

Among other blue chips
Mercury Asset Management
put on 19.5p to 1,274p as
Dresdner Kleinwort Benson
switched its advice to buy.
Thous had a rather more sub-

Drugs had a rather more sub-dued time although Glaxo

Granada unchanged at 905.5p; British Steel's slide continued with Morgan Stanley and Salomon Brothers adding to the negative sentiment. The shares fell 1.5p to 148.5p. Unilever rose 25.5p to 1,559p on Warburg support. FKI, the engineer, was little changed at 186.5p deceived at 198.5p deceived.

spite a UBS buy signal. Tate & Lyle, the sweetener group, rose 8p to 444p on suggestions it could attract a takeover approach; results are

due soon.

Verity was back in demand,
up 4.5p to 51.75p. Its wafer-thin
sound system has now been taken up by Samsung, the Korean
giant. Verity has already linked
with Japanese giant NEC. Its
shares were 9.75p in July.

Tracker Network's return to

Tracker Network's return to

Wiggins, the property group, held at 10p as MAMs revealed it had built a 3.41 per cent shareholding: South Country Homes climbed 4p to 30.25p on vague talk of bid action.

JN Nichels, the soft group famed for Vimto, was 9p higher at 195.5p on rumoured inter-est. Bass, the brewing giant controlling the Britvic soft drinks enterprise, was put forward as a likely buyer. Wedderburn, the property group which has evolved as an oil trader fol-lowing an acquisition, shaded 1.5p to 28.5p. It is felt it has an-

other oil bid in its sights. Relyon, the bed maker also involved in closed circuit TV, moved 3p higher to 353.5p. Stockbroker Granville Davies believes the shares are underspaned It foregages profits will

☐ Simon Engineering rose 2p to 45.5p as stories resurfaced that acquisitive Rutland Trust would bid. Last month Simon admitted it had held co-operation talks with Rutland which has Thamesport, the deep water container port in the Thames Estuary. A cash and shares bid could come in

**Taking Stock** 

around 55p. Commonwealth Gold, with interests in Botswana, Liberia, New Zealand and Zimbabwe, arrived on Ofex through an introduction. The shares opened at 40p, closing

SMD CONDEAST WAY	Much of the interest appeared to come from private investors. Said Marshall Whiting at Societé Générale Strauss Turnbull:  "Most of the fund managers have made an investment de-	the market. Generally it has re- mained indifferent since John Major started the dash to polling day.  In the past two campaigns	progress with the leading water companies higher and the generators in fine form.  Others where the windfall tax hovers moved ahead; BT, with help from SocGen and SBC Warburg, rose 9p to 442.5p;	treatment. Biocompatibles In-	Tracker Network's return to profits drove the shares 40p ahead to 575p and Betacom moved to a new 12 month high, up 4p to 70p, on speculation about Alan Sugar's plans for his third string quoted company.	believes the shares are undervalued. It forecasts profits will hit £8.5m this year, against £7m, and then stretch to £9.4m. With £9.3m in the bank the group could be set for takeover expansion.  and will seek more cash later.  The spring sunshine has lifted compost sales of William Sinclair by 35 per cent; the shares flowered 7p to 227.5p.
A	Mag at Societé Générale Strauss   Thurbull   Most of the fund managers   have made an investment de-	Major started the dash to polling day.  In the past two campaigns the privatised groups have had seen the privatised groups had seen the priva	Others where the windfall tax hovers moved ahead; BT, with hovers moved ahead; BT, with help from StocGert and SBC Warburg, rose 9p to 442.5p;  ### The Stock Price Cag 1st Price ### The Stock ### The Stock Price ### The Stock ###	Temporary   Temp	The content of the	## Share Price Data  Share Price Data  Fines we in sterling except where stend. The yeads a lest years dividend, grossed up by 25 per cent, an a percentage of the share proc. The preventions, 1975 into a the share proc. The proc. and a percentage of the share proc. The preventions of the share process of the share proc. The preventions of the prevention of the share proc. The preventions of the prevention of
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# £23bn tidal wave of free shares threatens to engulf market

Over the next six months a tidal wave will hit the stock market —£23bn worth of free shares which are being distributed to 19 million investors as some the country's biggest building societies and insurers abandon their mutual stanus and head for Stock Exchange listings. How will the markets cope and what will happen to the value of thee nest eggs being handed to one-third of the adult population?

If only a fraction of the new share-holders decide to sell, the pressure on dealing systems could be immense. Salomon Brothers predicts that 20 per cent of the windfall shares will be sold in the next year, rising to up to 50 per cent of the shares if their prices rise sharply. The American bank conducted a survey with Mori in which one in eight respondents said they planned to sell their shares immediately. That could mean 2.4 million people trying to deal on a stock market that averages a daily turnover of around 40,000 transactions. A further one in eight intended to sell some shares in the first year.

When the Alliance & Leicester floats on 21 April, many share-holders will be tempted to sell their entire holding via A&L's offer of a dealing service free to those deciding to sell all their shares in the first three days' dealing.

Barclays Stockbrokers is expect-

Barclays Stockbrokers is expecting a selling spree and has set up a telephone dealing service for the A&L flotation. But director Justin Urquhart Stewart is urging shareholders to exercise restraint.

"I would be desperately keen to encourage people not to sell their shares." he said. He may be right. Over a half of the shareholders created by the Abbey National's conversion into a bank held on to their shares and have seen the value of their investment rise by 500 per cent. True. Abbey National hit the market at a time of high inflation and it may not be the best indicator of the prospects for the likes of the Halifax and Woolwich, but history suggests the shares could perform well initially.

One reasons the shares are expected to rise is the anticipated desperation of so-called tracker funds Some 19 million investors in societies and insurers pose an unprecedented challenge, reports **Chris Hughes** 

to get a slice of the action. Tracker funds are duty-bound to buy into all the shares in which ever index (usually the FTSE 100) they follow. Because all the shares will be issued to ordinary account- and mortgage-holders, those big institutional funds will have no exposure at all when the charge start tonding.

when the shares start trading.

No one knows how they will act to build up their positions, which are already dangerously low in the banking sector. According to one analyst, the damage started in 1989, with the Abbey National flotation. "Although 20 per cent of the stock was sold in the first six months, the flow from private to institutional investors was very slow after that, at about 5 per cent a year," he said.

The summer's proposed flotations mean the situation can only get worse. The exposure of funds to the sector is already only about 69 per cent of where it should be. The Alliance & Leicester flotation will probably shift the underweighting down to 67 per cent, with Halifax taking it down to 56 per cent.

What this does not necessarily mean, however, is that new share-holders can be certain of entering a seller's market from day one. One possibility is that tracker funds will buy into other high street banks to keep their stakes in line with the sec-

early June

September

7 July

Norwich Union

Woolwich

to get a slice of the action. Tracker funds are duty-bound to buy into all the shares in which ever index year in anticipation.

The Exchange has decided the earliest date the A&L and Halifax could be included on the index is 23 June, but shares start trading on 21 April and early June respectively. This should help prevent an artificial boost to prices but it is unclear

how successful the device will prove.

"There could be a rush on the first day's trading, or things could be quiet until 22 June," one observer said. "When Orange floated, the shares were forced up to £2.50 and the highest price was reached on the eve of the shares entering the index. What we will probably see is orderly buying throughout the period prior to index entry."

The tracker funds will not want

The tracker funds will not want to create a rush on the shares and could hold back in early days to depress the price. This would hit private shareholders hoping to cash in early. When Abbey National floated in 1989, its share price fell 8p from 153p in the first days of trading.

What is certain is that as soon as the issues make the index, the trackers will be forced to buy, almost regardless of price. If people rush to sell, Barclays' telephone dealing facility, a partnership with BT, aims to offer a service to people who are

Shareholders Est average

(£)

1,100

1,300 1,000 1,300

holding value

Summer flotations

**Payout** 

FINANCIAL TIMES

unfamiliar with stockbrokers. Callers will be greeted by a computerised voice, offering them the choice of buying or selling shares, or putting them into a PEP. Transactions will be handled by an operator and the proceeds paid into the caller's bank account.

Richard Hunter, NatWest's as-

Richard Hunter. NatWest's assistant director of share-dealing services, says NatWest aims to spread excess demand over a variety of dealing channels, including personal computers. "We will have extra staff on hand, but by offering a selection of dealing methods, we

hope to avoid any problems."

If the Exchange is unable to process the sales, though, the brokers' preparations to court the shareholders could be in vain. A large number of small-value sales presents the Exchange with a challenge, since it is accustomed to larger deals.

larger deals.
Crest, the Exchange's computer system, was introduced last year and is already coming under strain. In January it was upgraded to cope with the transfer of FTSE 100 companies from the existing Talisman system.

To prevent Crest cracking under the strain, brokers will accumulate their clients' sale orders and sell in one go, either every hour, or when they have gathered a significant quantity of shares.

This will spare brokers the impractical task of in-putting the price of each transaction and sending a note to the registrar of the client's details. Instead, they will in-put a single large sale and send a covering note detailing the various clients' involved in it.

Fears are growing, however, that the new shareholders may actually want to increase their stake rather than cash in on it - one of the most frequently asked questions on A&L's flotation hotline.

Michael Saunders, UK economist

at Salomon Brothers, says it is impossible to be certain whether the windfalls will be cashed in at all. Salomon's survey found the largest payouts would be to people who are middle-aged, richer and more financially sophisticated, and therefore more likely to hold on to shares.

### No time for the age of steam in Railtrack's schedules

Railtrack is about to evict Thomas
the Tank Engine, leaving London's
only working steam tram museum
without a home. The Southall
Railway Centre in west London has
recently been told that Railtrack
does not intend to renew its lease
on 21 July. Instead, Railtrack is to
sign the lease to Flying Scotsman
Railways, owned by Dr Tony

Sign the lease to Flying Scotsman
Railways, owned by Dr Tony
Marchington, who will be able to
park his 30 Pullman coaches in the
Southall engine shed.

The centre is currently run by the GWR Preservation Society, a group of volunteers that runs 10 engines from the site, including a number of historic steam engines. Robert Zarywacz of the group says: "At the beginning of March we were notified by Railtrack that they wouldn't be renewing the lease. It was rather a shock. We've been talking to Railtrack, and before them to British Rail, about the site since 1986. We're trying to find out why they did this. They

certainly didn't consult us."

The group runs steam weekends, usually themed as "Meet Thomas the Tank Engine", during which their locos are fitted with cartoon faces and carry thousands of members of the public hither and thither. There are even plans to set up a regular steam link between Southall and Brentford.

So how does Sir Bob Horton,
Railtrack's chairman, feel about
being cast as the heartless Fat
Controller? After all, isn't the new
Flying Scotsman service being
based in the Yorkshire Dales?

A Railtrack spokesman admits that its decision "has come over as a bit heartless". It had taken a commercial decision that Flying Scotsman Railways had a business proposition, with prospects of an expansion of business in the future. "While the GWR group have a lot of plans, they are only plans at the moment."

"We've offered them alternative sites, but they're not very happy about that," the spokesman said. Indeed not. So if you want a last chance to see the GWR's trains in action, get down to Southall this Saturday for their steam weekend.

Here's another depressing list about the rich, but one that really rubs salt into the wound. These PEOPLE & BUSINESS



Evicted: Thomas the Tank Engine will have to leave Southail

millionaires are all under 40.
According to a survey by
Hemmington Scott, published in
the latest edition of the *Price*Waterhouse Corporate Register,
quoted Britain has created 36
millionaires under 40; eight of
them have yet to reach 35.

At the top of the league is Daniel Chin, a 36-year-old scion of the Hong Kong business dynasty, who is vice-chairman of Forune Oil. Educated at Sussex University, Mr Chiu co-founded Kingsleigh in 1989 when he was still under 30. He reversed into Blackland to form Fortune Oil and made his own fortune in the process. His 34.23 per cent stake in the company is worth nearly

f50m today.

Then there's Stephen Streater, managing director of Eidos, who set up his video software company in 1990, with the help of two friends. Then aged a mere 24, he could barely raise the £4 for his stake which is now worth £40m.

So it does seem as if millionaire are getting younger. Hemmington found that of the 3,031 executive directors of fully listed and AIM-quoted companies who owned up to their age, 282 are under 40 and 40 are under 35. Pass the nappies.

The comedian Bob Monkhouse was in wicked form on Wednesday night at Building magazine's

annual housebuilder awards
dinner in London. Sir Laurie
Barratt, chairman of Barratt
Developments, was one of Mr
Monkhouse's many victims when
he stepped up to receive a prize.
Sir Laurie was the kind of man
who, if he was drowning 20 feet
from the shore, you'd chuck him a
15ft rope, said Mr Monkhouse.
You could then walk away secure
in the knowledge that you had met
him half way.

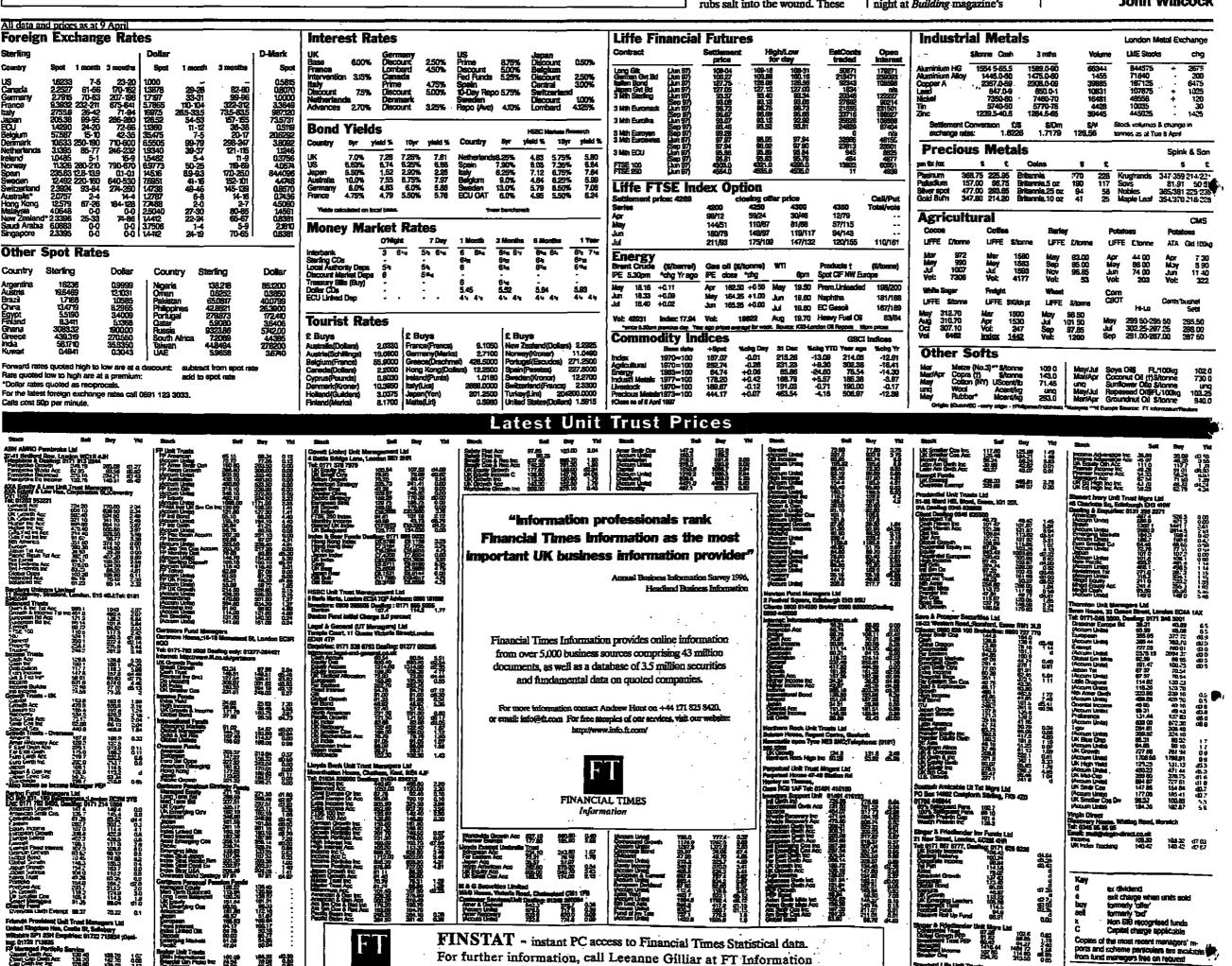
As the assembled multitude

As the assembled multitude collapsed in mirth, Mr Monkhouse followed up with: "He's almost impossible to ignore – but well worth the effort."

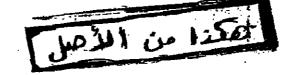
Sir Laurie took it in good humour, as did the rest. With the housebuilding market on the rebound he can afford to smile.

How times change. Heron
International has appointed a
development director. Tony
Leyland of George Wimpey. It
only seems like yesterday that
Gerald Ronson, chief executive of
Heron, was saving time in Ford
Open Prison while Heron groaned
under debts of over £1bn. Heron
has signed deals worth over £400m
this year, mainly in continental
leisure projects, and Mr Leyland
will be closely involved in that
expansion. Quite a comeback.

John Willcock



on +44 171-825-8430 or email: leeanne.gilliar@ft.com



### Rymer set to ride tall

Terry Rymer stands head and shoulders above his rivals, which is something of a disadvantage for a motorcycle racer. At 6ft 2m. walking tall in the pit lane is never a problem, but tucked behind the small protective shell of a Japanese racing machine's fairing requires an uncomfortable crouch - a Nippon tuck - that can leave limbs aching after a hard ride in the saddle.

For all that, though, Rymer the "Lanky Londoner" - does not see his relative height as a handicap in a world of bantamweight-sized competitors. "Overall, it is a disadvantage," he conceded, but in some cases it's an advantage. You're strong enough to move the bike around, and it helps with wind resistance on breaking. It's good for everyday life

— I like being tall. But, riding a motorbike, it gives you a pain in the neck and back, literally."

Fact is, however, he is more than happy to peer above the heads of his peers and on Sun-

Andrew Martin on a big man in the short world of British Superbike racing

day, following the first race of this season's MCN British Superbike Championship at Donington Park, Rymer hopes to east his elongated shadow from the highest step of the winner's podium.

Such confidence results from having landed one of two rides on the factory Team Kawasaki ZX-7RR A good, experienced rider on a capable machine amounts to a heap of pluses where winning margins and lap times are often separated by the width of a tyre.

Last season Rymer, the 1992 World Endurance champion, proved he was capable of competing with the best. Having impressed on a works Ducati in World Superbikes, he stood in for the injured Daryl Beattie. landing a 500cc grand prix ride on the Lucky Strike Suzuki. Rymer readily admits that he found the awesome two-

wheeled bronco something of a handful, but his performances made those who had not already sighted Rymer's conspicuous frame and talent take notice.

"Riding 500s you have to be very fit and know exactly what you are doing," he said, "and be dis-ciplined in mind and body. Also it taught me about throttle con-trol. With that power underneath your right wrist - 190bhp and 200mph plus - one tiny mis-take (which I found out a couple of times) and it's not a very pleas-ant experience, because when 500s flick you off they really flick you hard. I was good for my experience and I'm riding better

leg at each corner, though it may be as long as Royal Ascot in June before racegoers can

see her using them in that

to be "fine", which is a digit in

the eye for those who have been

fertilising rumours of her ill-

health throughout the winter

According to one corpulent.

hairy, television source, Lady

Carla should by now have a

slightly swollen tummy follow-

ing a liaison with Mr Prospec-

tor, but if that is to be the case

the American stallion must

have broken in to Warren Place.

idea of sliding one of his bat-talion into the first major British

Classic trial, next Tuesday's Nell Gwyn Stakes at Newmar-

ket, and is definitely without a

runner in this afternoon's French rehearsal, the Prix Im-

prudence at Maisons-Laffitte.

parture front the script, this List-ed contest should go to

Criquette Head's Pas De Re-

one of the few fillies breathing

Unless there is a homble de-

Cecil is still toying with the

Wednesday work morning at to expect. Lady Carla, the ex-eadquarters was consequent- travagant Oaks winner, is said

blinding flurry they have come

it's going to be bigger and big-ger. I'd rather stay in the UK and win races here and keep my pro-file high than race World Suthan I've ever ridden now." perbikes with an uncompetitive machine, finishing 12ths, 13ths Rymer has expectations of a smoother ride in the British Championship, where he faces a formidable challenge from the and 14ths. You're certainly not doing yourself justice and not enreigning champion, Niall Mackenzie, on the Cadbury's joy it either. I want to enjoy my racing. When I do that I can win."

Boost Yamaha and the Reve Ducari pairing of John Reynolds and Steve Hislop. Rymer's confidence is further fortified by some blistering test times and a third place in last Sunday's "shakedown race", the Race of the Year at Mallory Park. That the series has captured the public's imagination is clear from the BBC's decision to extend its coverage of the event and that last season some 140,000 spectators saw the action live. This year I was offered a ride by Suzuki to do the world en-

Terry Rymer: 'What I want to do is win'

### **Kelleher returns for** Slough title decider

BILL COLWILL

Slough will be going for their fifth championship when they travel to Formby tomorrow to play Hightown, the defending champions, in their final Premier National League game of

Sarah Kelleher, the Irish international, returns to the squad, having elected to miss a national training weekend, but Slough will be without Helen

Thornalley, who will be running in Sunday's London Marathon. Hightown have injury doubts about Fiona Lee and they will be without long-term casualties Debbie Mills and Helen Grant. The good news for the north-ern club is that Caroline Gilbert is fit again, although unlikely to be in the starting line-up, and Lucy Newcombe has got leave from the RAF.

Maggie Sonyave, the High-town player coach, fears that her young team will relax after escaping relegation. "It has not been an easy time recently with some indifferent perfor-mances," she said, "but we don't intend to hand the title on a plate to Slough."

Should Slough slip up, a win for Ipswich, who knocked Slough out of the cup last Sunday, would give the Suffolk club their second title. Ipswich - two points behind - are away to Trojans at Southampton.

There is an intriguing situation at the bottom for the one relegation spot. Leicester, equal on points with Trojans, entertain Doncaster, just one point above them. Leicester's crop of talented youngsters lack an experienced player to steady their nerves when the pressure mounts, but they should be capable of the draw which would

### **Guineas reveille for Cecil's Sleepytime**

have been suffering from the virus), but he recently admitted

that a respiratory problem had

attached itself to some of his

Headquarters was consequent-

ly denuded of some of its more

aristocratic presences as Cecil

gave his leading fillies the day

off. As any trainer will tell you,

working ill horses has the same

effect on their engines as fail-

mg to put oil in your car. Instead of loosening their joints, the

élite therefore underwent

blood-testing and scoping, while

swabs were taken and tracheal washes also administered.

have had a slight problem with

infections recently, so any that I wasn't happy with, and all the

more important horses, have been checked and scoped." Ce-

cil said yesterday. "The results show that, on the whole, they

and ringworm in Newmarket

and, while it is something we are

used to, I think it's worse this

year and it has come much lat-

"There is a lot of coughing

are all right.

er, po

"One or two of my horses

RICHARD EDMONDSON

The Henry Cecil family ensign flies over Warren Place after each Group One winner, but the old flag should have been at half mast this week after a particularly difficult period for the

Newmarket stable. Bacteria has come to visit the vard and is outstaying its welcome, and there were fears earlier in the week that illness may have spread to the upper echelons of a string which is powerful even by Čecil standards as he seeks to reclaim his trainers' championship from Godolphin.

However, after consulting the clip boards at the bottom of each of his patients' beds, Cecil was able to reveal yesterday that the stars have not been dinmed. Sleepytime, Reams Of Verse and Yashmak remain on course for a 1,000 Guineas which is almost a Warren Place private sweepstakes, while the older, established figures such as Bosra Sham and Lady Car-

la are also in the pink. A lot of 10-to-follows had been placed in jeopardy at the warm winter. It's good to get it Park Stakes winner, who, acbeginning of the week when Ce- over with early so the horses cording to the bookmakers, is cil announced he was still try- build up an immunity. ing to evict a bug from his yard.

In common with other leading painers, Henry never seems to ect sickness among his athletes

The way in the first of the rew filles breathing who can stop the Classic trophy being added to Henry Cecil's groaning mantlepiece.

Reams Of Verse won't run be-(with lesser handlers it's hard to fore the Guineas as she needs tell whether they get the virus a mile and the ground is too fast, and have a bad run or have a though she is 100 per cent."

All clear for

**Newton Abbot** 

. 11:46 - 15F

### 1,000 GUNEAS (Newmorket, 4 May): William Hill: 5-2 Sleepytime, 5-1 Moonlight Paradise, 7-1 Raems Of Verse, 8-1 Pas De Reponse, 10-1 Khassah, Vashmak, 12-1 Bianca Nera. Rambo in rude health

Tomorrow's meeting at Newton Abbot will go ahead following an inspection yesterday. Patchtory in a tight finish at Hamilton es of hard ground had put the fixture in jeopardy but the track was passed fit for racing after being watered.

A spokesman for the track said: "The going is firm, good to firm in places, watering." Michael Roberts was banned for two days (19 and 21 April) or using his whip in the forehand position in front of the back to the third. Mels Baby. saddle on Village Native at

Folkestone yesterday.

A week after a vet failed to give thinking when he failed him," Rambo Waltzer a clean bill of David Nicholls said. "I wish I health the five-year-old demon- had 25 more like him in the strated his well-being with a vic- yard."

called off after the unfavourable vet's report. But Rambo Waltzer, produced fast and late by Carolyn Baies, caught Gadge near the line for a short-head verdict with the same distance

"This is a fantastic horse and I don't know what the vet was

The trainer was full of praise for the 18-year-old Bales, who yesterday.

A deal to sell the gelding to the United States last week was to the United States last week was sooring the first riding success of her career. "She joined me five months ago and is a cracking lass," he said.

> RICHARD EDMONDSON NAP: Niger's Lad . (Nottingham 3.40) NB: Viva Verdi (Nottingham 2.40)

4,10 The Comebackking 4.40 Keen Waters 3.10 SANDSTONE (nap) 5.10 General Glow (nb)

GOING: Good to Firm. STALLS: 5f & 6f - stands side; rest - inside.

DRAW ADVANTAGE: High usually best for 5f & 6f.

Lich-land, oval course. Fist and galloping with easy turns.

Course is 2m east of city off B686. Notinghum station 2m. ADMISSHON: Contenuty Stand £12 (Juniors, 16-2) years, £8); Tatternalls £8 (Juniors & Jubilee Cub OAPs £5, Staterna £4); Silver Ring £2 (Jubilee Cub
OADs £97. CAR BARS. Stand

durances and testing on the 500s," Rymer added, "but I chose to do the British Champ-

ionship with Kawasaki because

ELEADING TRAINERS WITH FUNNERS: J Demiop — 18 winners from 99 runners gives a success ratio of 18.2% and a loss to a 51 level stake of 519.82; H Coeff — 18 winners, 59 runners, 17.7%, 5.11.40; Mrs J Ramades — 11 winners, 75 runners, 14.7%, 5.3.42; R Hamon — 10 winners, 134 runners, 7.57%, 4.76.40.

ELADING JUCKETS: L Descort — 24 winners, 126 rides, 18.0%, 52.66; Pat Eddery — 18 winners, 76 rides, 23.7%, 4.26.65; K Pallon — 14 winners, 113 rides, 12.4%, 5.16.67; W Rysm — 14 winners, 120 rides 117%, 5.616

rides, 11.7%, -261.58. BLINEBERD FIRST TIME: Calva Disa (4.40). WINNIESS IN LAST SEVEN DATS: None. LONG-DISTANCE EUNNERS: After Dawn (4.10) & Blice (4.10) have been sent 206 miles by Mrs Nerys Daufield from Astrovuth, Devon.

210 WATNALL SELLING STAKES (CLASS G) £2,875 added 3YO 1m 54vds 

022043- PRINCESS OF HEARTS (151) (A S Raci) B Meeton 8 11 ... B Doyle 4 B 

11 000-800 JOYFUL JOY (58) (E Barrior) 13 Baugh 8 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Soine Weeds (7) 10 12 0 NEFRANS MAIDEN (1/6) (6 S Bioy) A Janks 8 7 \_\_\_\_\_\_ C Cenver (7) 6 

though the top may have been not for for her, and she could stop lessh and well to take the seller. Champagine On less was on unsutable ground at Musselburgh a formget ago. Third to Pointze, she will be sharper for the run and turned in two decent efforts in sellers less term — the first on this course when beaten a head by the gardbled-on Summerville Wood, a womer at Pollections yesterday. Additionado has joined from Hodges since his seller win at Newmorket for Fuller Johnson Houghton. He seemed to outstay Photocs Of Hearts (bound) over that make after infairing behind the effey on the stance course over seven furlouge. Princess Of Hearts ran poorly on the all-resider afterwards and Adicionado may beat her again on 3th wome terms.

2.40 BASSINGFIELD MAIDEN STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 added 3YO 1m 54yds

H Fam) J Glover 9 0......T Pengi PROR (283) (Augn Industries (30) J Hills 9 0 ...

FORM GITDE

With Neil Variey on Green Power the golding rates the sable pick over Transitionals, though some of these should prove too good for him. Henry Cacil real his first numer of the season here on Tuesday when Stehesin facely in the market) was third to Lusalomne. He now introduces a Relay whening type in BARRIEER ROBEE, whose site Lycius was second in Mystilloris Gurees. Also Sewent had a newcomer firsh thit in this same marken here. He has two in this with Richard Hills object lessal, who hotis a first chance after being a shade unlucky on his only justicile sant at Yampouth (7th when this to Dead Loder's Selont. Sewent's other namer, Malay, reade no sone on his sole jusenile start. Callians Real dept decent, company as a juvenile and his sable to in fine form, while Speculator is a possible improver for his neceral run. PORM GUIDE

BLINESEED FUST TIME: Lucky Boof (2.50) (visored), Phillistur (3.20), Ten Past Siz (4.20), Who's That Man (4.50).
WINNERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DATE None.
LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Celebration Cabe (3.20) has been sent 240 miles by Miss L A Perran from Ayr, Strathchyde.

2.20 SCARBOROUGH SELLING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 5f

- 10 declared -

BETTHIC 5-2 Hopefully, 4-1 Captain Miss, 9-2 Who Nose, 7-1 Shindhun, 8-1 Just Nobby, My Bet, 10-1 Miss Beveled, 12-1 others

2.50 BRIDLINGTON BAY STAKES (HANDICAP) (CLASS E) £4,025 added 2m

— 11. deciared — Minimum weight: 7st 10to. True handlesp weights: Romelito 7st 6to, Top Price

72: 230. BETTRIC: 7-2 Starley See, 4-1 French by, 5-1 Knobo, 7-1 Lucky Hool, 8-1 Oer Kris, 10-1 Aloine Bine, 12-1 others

JUST NOBBY N Tokies 8 11...

CRYSTIAL HEARTED may have an edge over his seven maje, after a nun in the Easter Spices at Kemponn. The winner at Kemponn, Pelmann, had the benefit of a prevous run, and Crystal Hearted tooled as trough the expenence would bring him on, even though the mader (5-1 into 100-30) surgicisted otherwise. Very impressive on his second piveles are at Warnet, Crystal Hearted should have no problems with the first ground. Shoothoung, a pleasing debut fifth to Crystal Hearted at Worwick, won a poor race in soft, ground at Follestone next time. Daned Loder's heavity bearded Showin way second to a newscomer here on Tuesday — a run winds slightly darse the chances of Sectard. In signing that, Selcan did produce a teding runn of foot to make an expected waveing debut at Varintauth last. October and must rate a threat in the hands of Franke Deton. A win by Barner Ridge in the consults case will also a pointer to the stable's Countable, though the cost made heavy Outper and must rate a threat in the hands of Franke Detson. A win by Barner rouge or the provious case will give a pointer to the stable's Countrably, though the colt made heavy weather of besting a newcomer at Yarmouth in a slower time then Selan's win 30 imputes centier. Sandstone can become of these exposers. Newtony some rate may now just lack the recessary pace to best some of these empowers. Newtony somers Speadball may need the run, as dot his stablemente Papus in the Eases Stables. Ball Paradise was a game witner from the front of a Newtony nursery last September and then consisted the Horite Hit in resting ground. He's tough and could be worth recising or forecast bets. Promier Bary hasn't run since early July and his Newtony debut we way gained in soft ground.

### 3.40 ACER COMPUTERS HANDICAP (CLASS D) £4,900 added 1m 2f 51-3010 PUNKAH (29) (0) (McCourt Fine Messs) G McCourt 4 10 0

04000-5 KRISCLIFFE (18) (P A bins G Lews 4 10 0 Paul Edder ) 10 410110- WHITE PLANS (123(0) (P Leich M Poc 4 9 11 R Midles (5) 8 4000-00 EAGLE CANNON (25) (C W Lare inn 8 Harbury 4 9 10 Millimmer 18 42060-0 POREST ROBBIN (22) (Pasinum Recorg Ms.) Remeden 4 9 10 12 05-5065 REHAAB (15) (C) (Baker Street Partners) D Moons 4 8 10 . C21600- FERRYS GOVERNOR (157) (CD) (Fem Components) W Musson 5 8 8...
D R McCabe 2 

BETTINC: 6-1 Nigel's Lad, 7-1 White Pialos, 8-1 Alfredo Alfredo, 10-1 Forest Robin, Jaib, Manter Bevoled, Zidec, 12-1 Golden Torch, 14-1 Eagle Canyon, Kriscilife, 15-1 Absolutally Standing, Adastic Mist, Classic Dame, Fern's Governor, 20-1 others 1996: Esterno Nei 5-8 0 J F Egen 100-30 U Spearing) 15 ran FORM GUIDE RGEL'S LAD is just the type to bounce back on the level after a good spei over hurdes

RIGIEL'S LAD is just the type to bounce back on the level after a good spel over hundles - and Pat Haslam must teel the same way because he has boolied Familie Detion. He found the company a bit too hot of Antree after the wins at Newcastle and Doncaster, but he again reased with his used enthusiation. Such a money-spinner on the level in 1995, Niger's Lad lost his way a bit lest year, but he locks off here on a handicap rating of 72 compared to his mank of 87 or last session's Lincoln. Another hundles and in too is Whiten Plains's second to stablemast Metr The Clouds at Newton Abbon's Easter messing. That will have put him spot on and Martin Pipe less boolied fills claimer Richard Mutilen, who was the galding's regular rater when warming for Michael Belt. Measter Bereided was fourth on Mad Militarit at Warwick 11 days ago on his first start since a hundles run in January. This ground may prive a bit Berty for him, but Golden Touch (but owns last season), a offeddable severith in the same Warwick race when apprentice indien, could do better for the booking of Michael Roberts. Zidao has had two hundle runs so may not improve their much on his fifth 30 Obelos at Lanester. Alfraelo Affredo has a distinct charce now that he has been gaided. He might have disappointed all by in August, but his previous promous promous in his Warwick maidens may get be furilled off this leners handicap ment, Jado bales a sharp jump in distance after his madden promote as a purchie, while course winter Ferni's Gujernor may just lack the necessary 20 on her first som of the season.

Selection: NIGEL'S LAD

### 4.10 TROWELL MAIDEN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 5f 13yds

NG (D A Shekella) S Williams 8 10..... 

# 

BETTING: 7-2 Conectia, 4-1 Eleventh Duba, 5-1 Red Risk, 8-1 Theorem Of Dressus, 13-2 Paymon, 15-2 See Imp. 9-1 Bellow, 10-1 Theoremsbeckking, 14-1 Nory's Joy, 16-1 Dian Otto, 20-1 others
1998: Superor Perman 2 8 5 A Culture 4-1 (R Fahey) 10 ran

FORM SUBJE

FORM S 4.40 NEW BASFORD HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4.025

	L		added 3YO 67 15yds
	1	52021-	PARILIAZZ (172) (D) (Baucher, Beyls & Humphrey Partnership) Margin
4	Me	ade 9 7	R Hada (3)
n	2	1056-5	JUPITER (11) IG C Bravery G Bravery 9 7
7	3	06-3211	TREASURE TOUCH (11) (CD) IN Honeymani D Micholis 9 7 (7ex)
-			
e	4	212210	FORGOTTEN TIMES (13) (D) (John Crook T Jones 9 6 Carliale 1
đ	5	040-	LUDO (240) (Michael Pescodi R Hannon 9 4Pat Endary 1
e	6	05-5436	SUPERCHARDER (53) (8F) U Wikins) D Nichols 9 4 Alex Greaters
r-	7	512101	ENGER TO PLEASE (15) (D) (Mess to Crowley) Mess Gay Reservay 9 4_
-			D Holland 11
L D	8		ALWAYS AUGHT (15) (M Neimes-Crocker) K Burke 8 11R Painter
ט	9		KEEN WATERS (16) (Richard Young)   *trotal 8 9 M Roberts 1
	10	625252	MASTER FOLEY (11) (D) (Mounty-ex-Ventures) N Liamoster 8 6
)			T G McLanghia
•	11		CARRI DHJ (196) (R Thortumi Mrs. J Ramsden 8 6
			CHASETOWN FLYER (18) (D W Smith) N Berry 8 6
-			FAN OF VENT-ANA (172) (Carnelot) D Cosgrove 8 5 M Baird (3)
1	14	40032-3	MINE'S DOUBLE (11) (Cornse Promotors Ltd) G Lews 8.3
0			
8	15	03034-0	WILLIAM'S WELL (16) (K Hodgson) M W Easterby 8 3

543334 JACK SAYS (10) (K Nicholis) D Shaw 8.1 ...

### 5.10 SHIPLEY COMMON HANDICAP (CLASS E) £4,025 added 1m 6f 15yds 412210 CHROS'S LAD (174) (D) DA'S 5 McCurty) B Meeten 6 10 OB Doyle 1 B 302414 DANCESS COVALER (16) (D) (Three Rs) R Holinshead 4 9 8

9 340-514 ROAD RACER (27) (8F) U Swess Mrs J Ramsder 4 8 10 ... J Forbate 3 10 6/60610 BRIGHTER BYFRAH (150) (CD) (P Jacobs) N Garbon 4 8 5 D Holland 7 11 546-000 COMBA (22) NAs B J Carby B Curby 4 8 4 ... J Quien 12 12 060002 LAWFUL LOVE (284) (Mrs D E Andreus) T Dornrelly 7 7 10 ...

RACING RESULTS

Jackpot: £18,426.40 (part won; pool of £18,166.94 carned forward to Notongham). Placepot: £12.70. Quadpot: £12.70. Place 6: £14.33. Place 6: £6.90,

FONTWELL
2.10: 1. ALDWICK COLONNADE (W McFarland) 14-1; 2. Baylord Prince 8-1; 2. Its
Frand 9-2. 10 ren. 100-30 is w Charle Parrot. 1, 1%. (M Usher). Totat: £14.40; £3.20,
£1.80, £1.70. DF: £24.80, CSF: £101.47,
Theast: £494.72. Too: £47.50.
2.40: 1. MAJOR DUNDEE (A P McCoy) 4-9
for 2. CROCK Wetcher 25-1; 2. Local Level

FOLKESTONE

FOLKESTONE
2.00: 1. SIMMERVELLE WOOD (P Firstmans) 5.1 tax; 2. Scattleabury 10-1; 3. Don't Forget Milde 25-1; 4. Velvet Jones 20-1; 18 ran. V., 37... (P Mooney), Tobe: £6.80; £180. £2.70, £5.80, £3.20. DF: £27.80, CSP: £5188. Tricss: £1.093.84. Tro: £347.70 (pen month).

ron). 2.30: 1. LEVELLED (P.P. Murphy) 3-1 tax;

2. Sulin Pactors 11-1; 3. Hever Bolt Stammer 20-1 10 ren. %; ½; (M.Channon). Totac £4,40; £2,40. £6,50; £4,10. DF: £88,70. CSF: 58,06. Trac: £135,80 (pert won). 3,00: 1. COH SHO NO (T Quinn) 7-1; 2.

1996; Beltara 4.8 10 W Ryen 6-1 (H Bahbaga) 13 ran
FORM SURDE
A good showing can be expected from BRIGHTER BYFAMH on his reappearance. Probably unauted by Equitack last November, he had previously beaten No More Hassis with
ease in a select on this course. That was after a rest and he girts a 6th pull with Fonglie
on Recent nurning in May when the binness faded to work. Forge revers to the boas tro
other being med in bio-miles, and he can also make a show on his sessional attempt.
Road Racer mon a weak race on Southwell's sand and was only fourth to Mandha it Newcesse three weeks later. He has a platen's manh, but needs to show he can act on fast
ground. Descring Cavatier has had his form boosed by the lives of Reflies Rouser and
Summarhia Special, and PRE Edderly is a good booking. This isse is for from being strong,
but the last ground (then were softish paticles of Casterab) just one off the glating, Chales
Lad is a tough son whose two wine last term were in this same grade, though the ground
as also a worry with him. Calabrah was fit from hundling when 5th to Galapran at Dorcaster and meets Dancing Casater has see for from the grade of Dorcaster and meets Dancing Casater has from hundling when 5th to Galapran at Dorcaster and meets Dancing Casater has from hundling when 5th to Galapran at Salebury last August. He's well enough hendicapped.

Selections SRIGHTER BYFAMH

#### BRIGHTON HYPERION 2.00 Prince Foley 2.30 Jo Maximus 3.00 Sharp Shuffle 3.30 Yet Again 4.00 Kalimat 4.30 Irish Fiction 5.00 Apollo Red

FIGURE SUPERSONS SR Pictals care park £4 plus £4 plus £4 plus £4 plus £4 plus £5 plus London, Victoria). ADMII 16s. free), Turtesulls 58, pant. CAR PARK: Free.

BLINGERED FIRST TIME: None.

BLINGERED FIRST TIME: None.

WINDERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: Benningham Binde (2.00) at Apollo Red (4.00) was at linguised on Friday.

LONG-DISTANCE RUNNERS: Fabelous Mixto (3.20) has been sent [53] miles by M Satrakers from Haydon, Somerset.

2.00 SOUTHWICK MEDIAN AUCTION STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 2YO 57 59yds. 

-	BETTHER: 5-4 Sambington States, 6-4 Prince Party
	2.30 ELM GROVE CLAIMING STAKES (CLASS F) £3,300 added 6f
	2.30 F) £3,300 added 6f
1	1 ACTUAL SHOWN PERSON TO THE AGE S DESIGNATION
	2 12-20 MELIONS (13) (17) H THEOLOGY CO. 10
	3 160-306 JO MACONIUS (69) (CD) S 1007-3 9 J Branchii (5) 13 4 50000-1 PETRACO (11) (D) N Synth 9 9 0 J P McCabe (3) 7 V
	4 51000-1 PETRACO (11) (D) N Smith 9 9 12
	5 001-000 HALBERT (77) (C) (D) M USER 8 8 12 Camby Morts 5 303126 LET BOY (CS) (D) GL Moore 8 8 12 Deed O'Nell 1
1	8 Price 2
	8 SARREDICA PHOSP 4 8 11. N Admit 4 9 DE0400 PEARL DAMN (171) (1) (3) P Carte 7 8 11. N Admit 8 9 DE0400 PEARL DAMN (171) (1) (3) P Carte 7 8 10 N End 8 B
	9 DAGAGO PEARL DAWN (173) (5) (0) P (2892 7 8 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
	ALDERSO JETTEL WILLIAM TO A CAN TO LINGUIST 3
	11 CADEGRO JEMEL W Turner 4 8 10 D Horness 3 12 A41530 ALSTREAMERS (15) (2) 1 Bridger 5 8 10 D Horness 3 13 01-050 LADY WESTBURY (15) P Richard 8 8 1 Lady WESTBURY (15) P Richard 8 8 1 Lady WESTBURY (15) P Richard 8 8 1
1	13. Walky Interessed in the second in the se
1	13 decision

BETTREE 7-2 Starling, 5-1 Storp Fourt, 6-1. in Ma. lone, Life Boy, 10-1 Backhander, 12-1 others 3.00 HOLLINGBURY LIMITED STAKES (CLASS D) £4,900 addied 1m

F) £33,300 added 1rr; 3f 196yds

2.5602; Helboro (1E, ID) M Smrtes 710 0 R Price 1

2.5602; Helboro (1E, ID) M Smrtes 710 0 R Price 1

2.5603; SAPPHRES 50N (72) E) PClaste 5 9 4 M Admis 3

5010-10 COLOUR COUNSELLOR (85) (CD) R Bover 4 9 0 Dane O'Reil 8 8

0.00000 YEATH (217) S Dov 5 8 12 A Dov P Murphy (8) 5

0.00000 YEATH (217) S Dov 5 8 12 A Dov (9) 4

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601.115 YET AGAM (10) (CD) Miss 8/ Yellowy 58 9 S Sander 7

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2.40: 1. MAJOR DUNDEE (A PMcCoy) 4-9 (pr.) 2. Clock Watchers 25-1: 3. Lord Love 50-1. 9 ran. 9. 7. (M Ppe). Totae £1.50; £1.50; £1.50; £1.50; £1.50; £1.50; £1.50; £1.50; £1.50; £2.50. (pen word, 3.10: 1. CREDON (B Ferton) 4-1; 2. Sugar Hill 4-1; 3. Master Cornedy 10-1. 7 ran. 2-1 fav Change The Regn. 2. 2. (S Woodmen). Totae £3.60; £2.50; £2.50. E7: £8.90, CSF. £18.49. Treast: £133.39, NR: Lay k Off, 3.40: 1. HONEY MOUNT (N WHIGHER) 7-4; 2. Kybo's Revenge 8-1; 3. (Bleachine £2-1). 3.00: 1. COM SHO NO (T Quirn) 7-1; 2. Socjama 4-5 tar, 3. Ginks 10-1. 7 ran. 1½, 1½, (S Dou). Tote: £10.00; £3.10, £1.20. DF: £5.00. GSP. £11.71. 3.30: 1. BEAU VENTURE (T Strates) 2-1 tar, 2. Songsheet B-1; 3. Hever Gelf Star 5-2. 7 ran. 1½, 1½, (B Paling). Tote: £2.20; £1.50. £4.60. DF: £14.40. GSF: £17.63. 4.00: 1. PREMIER ROBER (T Quirn) 7-2; 2. Mard Gras evers £ay. 3. Rare T Blast 9-2. 9 ran. 2. 3. IS Dow. Tote: £6.90; £1.90, £1.10. £1.20. DF: £3.10. CSF: £3.75. Tho: £3.60. 4.30: 1. BUBSLY (Pst Etdery) 8-13 tar; 2. E Starp 3-1: 3. Wing of A Prayer 13-2. 6 ran. 2. 3. (J Durbo). Tote: £1.60; £1.10. £1.90. DF: £1.50. GSF: £2.56. 5.00: 1. FRESH FRUIT DAILY (AF M Spitzne) 16-1: 2. Dauphin 9-2: 3. Nalis Talis 5-1.13. ran. 2. 1 tar. 2. 15 or £4.11. B.00: I. HESSH FROM DAILY (Mr M Spitzer 16-1; 2. Dauphin 9-2; 2. Nails Tails. 5-1. 13 ran. 2-1 tov Soldier Cove (4th), 3, ½. (P. Neilbeach, Totte: 158.77; 154.50, £1.10, HAMELTON

2.20: 1. RAMED WALTZER (Coro)n Bales;
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4. Portitio Sophie 16-1. 16 ran. Shi-hd, sid.
(D. Nachols). Tota: £5.67.
£1.30, £2.80. Dr. 19.50. CSF. £2.70, £2.00,
£1.30, £2.80. Dr. 19.50. CSF. £2.78. Ticas: £167.26, fine: £5.70.
2.50: 1. PURCHARDING POWER (S Drowne)
7-4 f. for; 2. Step N Go 7-4 g.far; 2. Barrasbo 7-1. B ran. 1½, 3. (N Calesjran). Tota: £4.20;
£1.90, £1.20, £1.40. Dr. £2.50. CSF. £2.76.
3.20: 1. FORST (K Falon) 5-2 far; 2. Reterm of Amin 11.-2; 3. Tropical B Basch B-1;
4. Be Warrand 8-1. 18 ran. 2½, 7. (M W Exciethy). Tota: £2.40; £1.40, £1.60, £1.70,
£2.70. Dr. £9.10. CSF. £1.369. Tricas:
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Risky Whising 8-11 for; 3. Aniso Lady 16-1. HAMILTON 2. Modimitor 4-1; 3. Vertunion France 2-1 iso-8 ran. 2, 2. U Griosti). Tota: £3.10; £1.30, £1.20, £3.00. DF: £5.50, CSF: £9.16. Tro; £24.60. NR: Toax Chieftain. Place pot: £79.50. Quadapot: £13.00, Place & £68.39. Place & £23.19. \* THE INDEPENDENT RACING SERVICES 0891 261 + LIVE COMMENTARIES LES INS 3.50: 1. FILEY BRIGG (K Felton) 10-1; 2. Ricky Whileky 8: 11 fee; 3. Andro Ledy 16: 16 ran. 2\*, 5. M Kernoy, Tote: £1.10; £2.70; £1.20. DF: £3.80. CSF: £15.12. 4.20: 1 TURNPOUE (A Culture) 6-4 fee; 2. Blonkelm Terrace 8-1; 3. San Mark 5-1.7 ran. 3, 3\*, 70. DF: £3.00.0. CSF: £13.80. 4.50: 1. SEA PRÉEDOM (S Droune) 5-1 fae: 2. Kartsure 8-1; 3. He's Got Wing; 10-1; 4. Northern Notto 16-1 18 ran. 4, 3\*/. (G Baking), Totes £4.60; £1.10, £2.80, £4.10, 14.30. DF: £25.50. CSF: £38.94. Treast £389.97. The: £197.00. NOTTINGHAM 971 BEVERLEY 973

### United come to terms with double disappointments

space of two days, one on a German playing field, the other in an English office, have left Manchester United angry and disappointed, but it is a case of rough luck rather than rough

Wednesday's 1-0 defeat to Borussia Dortmund was unfortunate in that United created the better chances and were However, they should have

world-class players. The second leg offers redemption but if Dortmund score once, as seems likely, United will have to score three times, which does not. But Day, April 23, will bring a change in fortune.

The other fixture, with the

Premier League's mandarins, will be settled by then. United may be talking of going to law if their appeal to the Football

Sympathy for the Red Devils? ended the game poorly, and Uefa, European football's rul-Up to a point. Two defeats in the were facing a side shorn of four ing body, takes a very sniffy view of such activities and, conceivably, could har United from Eu-

rope if they did. United feel fixture congestion hinders the European chances maybe the date, St George's of all British teams. Certainly some of their players looked tired on Wednesday, notably David Beckham. He has not played for 18 days and some felt that his mini-break was the reason for his lack of sharpness. Yet his fatigue scemed more

**Glenn Moore** feels Ferguson's troops are unlikely to win the European battle

been in the public eye even if he has not been playing due to a high-profile friendship with reason or another, he has hardone of the Spice Girls.

This season United have played 47 matches and may play 55, a figure which can only be matched (if both FA Cup semi-finals and final go to replays) by Wimbledon and Middlesbrough. To prepare for a busy season, Alex Ferguson bought

ly played Jordi Cruyff, Raimond van der Gouw and Karel Poborsky. Meanwhile, baving been injured for the first half of 12 days earlier. the season, Phil Neville and Andy Cole should be feeling

There are too many matches in England but the rules should

not be changed in mid-season. It is not fair on the other clubs as a game on 26 May 1985 underlined. Coventry, somewhat improbably, then beat Everton. the newly crowned champions, 4-1. It was their third successive win and it relegated Norwich, who had been eight points clear when their season had finished

one of only two teams campaigning for a reduction in the Poland three days after the European Cup final was a mistake originally planned. Arsenal are by the FA — though after al rules do not apply.

not fear relegation and anticipate regular European football. The smaller clubs feel they need the money from more matches and, with so much else ranged against them, who can

It has not been a good year for fixture planning. Making Easter an international week-In their defence, United are end was a gross error by Ucfa, arranging England's match in

the other - like United, they do Wednesday they may get away

Whoever qualifies at Old Trafford for the final are likely to end up losers. The probable opponents look invincible. They preceded Wednesday's 2-1 win over Ajax in Amsterdam with a 6-1 disection of Milan away on Sunday. It is a schedule that would have English managers in revolt but, as Terry Venables said as he returned from Dort. mund yesterday, when you. players are that good the usu-

**Peace** 

breaks

out in

Wright

'feud'

Ian Wright and Peter Schmei-

chel have drawn a line under

their controversial public clash-

es by assuring the Football As-sociation that there is no feud

However, Graham Kelly, the

FA's chief executive, has warned

both players that any further

conflict would lead to a heavy

Wright, the Arsenal striker.

and the Manchester United

keeper, Schmeichel, have been

involved in incidents twice this

season following challenges by

the England international on

the Dane. Schmeichel was alleged to

have made racist remarks to

Wright during United's 1-0 pre-

November. Wright did not hide

his anger and the controversy

broke out again after an incident

during United's 2-1 win at High-

to go in studs-first with a chal-

lenge that drew the United

manager, Alex Ferguson, off the

beach to make his feelings

clear. At the final whistle more

words were exchanged as the pair went up the Highbury tun-

nel with stewards intervening to

what appeared to be an esca-

lating conflict and its director of

public affairs, David Davies, yes-

terday issued Lancaster Gate's

Davies said that Kelly had

made it clear that disciplinary

action would not be in the best

The FA decided to step in to

The Arsenal striker appeared

bury on 19 February.

keep them apart.

official verdict

miership win at Old Trafford in 2

between them.

### Naked ambition pays off for Earle

**Phil Shaw** talks to the Wimbledon player who hopes to tear a strip off Chelsea in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final

France in reverse, a yellow jersey is awarded to the Wimbledon player whose training player whose training performance is voted the worst by his colleagues. The slogan on it reads: "Today I was dog-poo, but tomorrow I'll be brilliant". Robbie Earle, it should surprise no one to learn, is one of only two members of the squad yet to wear it as the campaign enters its final month.

In the Premiership as on the practice pitch. Earle's whole season has been a *tour de force*. The Duke", as he is known in the dressing-room, is again among the leading midfield marksmen, scoring in every round of the FA Cup leading to Sunday's semi-final against Chelsea at Highbury. And his box-to-box industry during Wimbledon's three-pronged bid for honours led Glenn Hoddle to put him on standby for England's game with Italy.

It was therefore a surprise when the England manager ig-nored Earle for the ensuing friendly against Mexico, despite a rash of withdrawals. Instead of preparing for his Wemblev debut, the 32-year-old from North Staffordshire was in Aberdeen for a testimonial match be-

tween the two sets of Dons. I was jumping whenever my mobile rang. Earle confessed. - which looks a steal six years
"It'd be my Mum and I'd say: on -he wondered whether fate 'Get off the line in case Glenn's trying to get through!"

"But when people ask if I'm disappointed I think back to the years I spent grafting at places like Halifax, Rochdale and Scunthorpe with Port Vale. That teaches you humility. My age is probably counting against me, but I've just got to try to force his hand."

Being in a Cup-winning side could only enhance Earle's claims. It would also complete. in a symbolic sense, a surprisingly gradual progression through the ranks that was nearly nipped in the bud. Just as Stoke City were pondering

associate schoolboy, the 16year-old with a serious soft spot for Manchester City suffered a broken leg.

On his release, he was invited for a month's trial at Vale Park by John Rudge, then the assistant manager. Breaking into the side at 17, he went on to play in every position except goalkeeper and left-back, becoming synonymous with Vale's rise under Rudge.

"He has been very influential for me. Myself and Mark Bright came back in the afternoons and he'd stay behind to work with us until five or six o'clock. He always said we'd make it if we were dedicated."

Loyalty to Rudge and a belief in honouring contracts kept him in the Potteries longer

'My age is probably counting against me but I've just got to try to force his hand'

than was perhaps good for his career. When Vale accepted Wimbledon's offer of £775,000 which looks a steal six years

was at work. For in 1988, shortly after his starring role in Vale's epic victory over Tottenham, Earle invited his team-mates to a Cup final harbecue. He drew the winning ticket in the sweep: the

Crazy Gang to win 1-0. Now he was being wooed by their owner at his imposing house in St John's Wood. Sam Hammam told him that by the time he left. Earle would either be his club-record signing or he (Hammam) would never speak to him again.

When he agreed to sign. Hammam kissed him excitedly.

Like the Tour de whether to promote him from shared passion to succeed. Td spoken to so-called bigger clubs. but Sam and Ray Harford (then manager) talked about how they saw me fitting into the team whereas the others concentrat-

ed on the financial side." Hammam convinced him he was joining a family. Chatting this week at the homely converted transport cafe where the players take tea and tuna rolls after training, we could have been in an old-fashioned living room. Teenaged trainees min-gled with the octogenarian chairman, Stanley Reed. Even the autograph hunter who cheekily asked Mick Harford for an orange left with fruit in his hand rather than a flea in his ear.

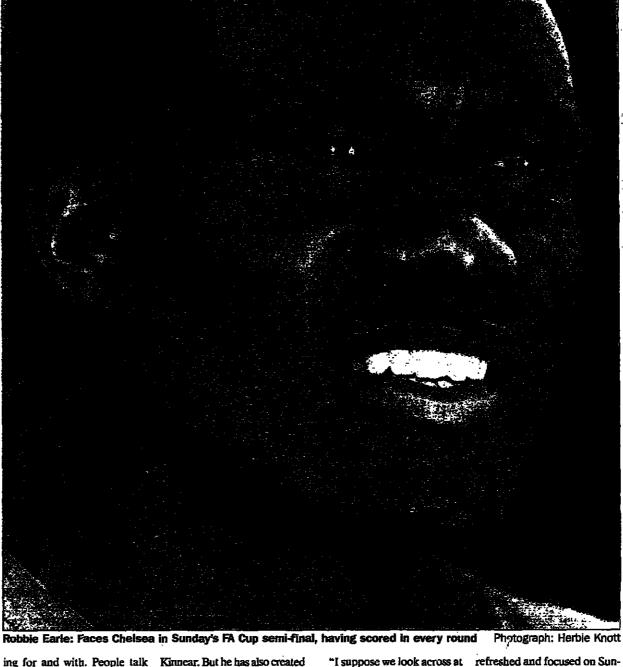
(Incidentally, the hard-asnails Harford is the other player still to "win" the yellow jersey. "They daren't give it to him." Earle laughed, "even in a secret ballot.")

Yet if Earle's description of the Dons' initiation rites is anything to go by, this is also the most dysfunctional family since the Simpsons. "We were running through the woods when the lads jumped me and stripped me. They gave me a traffic cone to cover my best bits and left me.

"How you react to that determines how much more stick you'll get. If you fight back, or don't laugh it off, you're liable to find your jacket cut up or your shoes burning."

Once, in Norway, Earle returned to the team's hotel to see his clothes, tied in a chain, dangling from an eighth-storey window. However, opponents view Wimbledon as "a glorified pub team" at their peril. "We're very professional behind the image. We've got some excellent technical players, and the boss (Joe Kinnear) is as good as anyone tactically.

The antics seem to help the bonding process. Unusually, the players often go racing or simply hang out together after training. "It helps you get a feel-Earle saw it as a sign of a ing for the people you're work-



about commitment. It's an inbred thing here.
"Vinnie (Jones) left once

and the Crazy Gang spirit car-ried on. Fash (John Fashanu) left and it stayed strong. A great thing this year has been the way seven lads from the youth set-up have established themselves. Everything that happens with the first team goes on at junior level, too. They call themselves the Brat Pack. and it just keeps evolving."

Earle received a maximum 10 for craziness from Jones in a tabloid article which infuriated

a one-man Sensible Faction within the Crazy Gang, proving himself an articulate broadcaster as well as taking a computer course in case he opts for the media rather than man-

agement in the long term. Chelsea's foreign legion bar his way in the immediate term. although Wimbledon and Earle tend to thrive against them. "I scored against them on my debut. There are certain teams you feel you're going to score against. Bristol Rovers were one when I was at Vale. Chelsea are another.

Non-League notebook

Unlike last season, when Dover

escaped the drop, the bottom three in the GM Vauxhall Con-

ference will almost certainly be

relegated this term, as the three

feeder leagues all look set to

provide promotion candidates, In the Icis League, Yeovil

lead Enfield by six points, but

that gap will be halved if Enfield

beat Staines at home tonight

when they play their game in hand. Yeovil, who beat Staines

3-1 on Tuesday, are at Sutton

Leek gained a 2-0 win, with

RUPERT METCALF

"I suppose we look across at them a little enviously. They're just up the road, they've got big support and they're fashionable. But that just means we always want to put one over them. We've also got a great record at Arsenal, so we're hoping the two things come together.

The fatigue evident during Wimbledon's recent poor run has been as much mental as physical, Earle argued. "We've never been in a position like this season - two semis and high in the League - so we've had to learn how to adjust. But I'm sure you'll see everyone totally Robbie Earle.

Race for Conference hots up

Dean Trott, at fifth-placed Bos-

ton United on Wednesday to

earn a three-point lead in the UniBond League. Leek have

played three fewer games than

second-placed Barrow, while

Hyde and Boston United are

also in contention for promotion.

In the Dr Martens League, Gresley Rovers lead the Premier

Division by eight points but have

not applied for promotion, as

their new stadium will not be

ready in time. However, the run-

ners-up are eligible for promo-

tion, and two fierce local rivals

are scrapping for this spot.

Gloucester trail second-placed

Cheltenham by three points

Elite object to change

goals from Steve Soley and and have two games in hand.

Soon after the replay, he took his "other" family for a day out in Brighton. A group of United fans spotted him and good-naturedly bemoaned his part in their downfall. Which goes to show, Mr Hoddle, that it is not too late to recognise

Both clubs have their grounds

inspected by the Conference to-

England's semi-profession-al team are still waiting for their first goal this season after Tues-

day's 0-0 draw away to the

Netherlands at Appingedam

on Tuesday. Their chances of

finding the net were not im-

proved when Lee Hughes, Kid-

derminster's highly-rated striker, limped off in the first

half with a foot injury.

day, and both expect to pass.

Wimbledon need to recapture the form that saw off the holders, Manchester United, despite falling behind in the closing minutes at Old Trafford. Earle headed the equaliser, giving him "the greatest feeling

interests of the game. Wright and Schmeichel had made it clear that there is no feud and

that they have professional respect for each other, although both have been warned of their responsibilities as role models. Davies' statement read: "Over several weeks the Football Association has been in-

discussions with representatives of Arsenal and Manchester United. These followed incidents involving Ian Wright and Peter Schmeichel. Also involved have been Peter Leaver of the Premier League and Gordon Taylor of the Profes-

sional Footballers' Association. "Ian Wright and Peter Schmeichel and their clubs have assured the FA there is no feud between them and both players have made it clear they respect? each other as professionals. Graham Kelly has received expressions of regret from both sides and a recognition of the

wider interests of the game. "Ian Wright has been deeply upset that what he insists were genuine attempts to win the ball have been misinterpreted in some quarters. It has already been said publicly by Manchester United on Peter Schmeichel's behalf that he is

not a racist and never will be." Kelly has written to Schmeichel. Wright and to their clubs. leaving the players in no doubt of their responsibilities when they next meet on the pitch. Failure to meet these standards

"will be very serious". The FA has opened an inbe at the club for more than one month but for less than three tween the youth teams of the

vestigation into a mass brawl ground-sharers, Crystal Palace and Wimbledon. A racist remark is alleged to have sparked the trouble and now the clubs been asked for their observa-

> TODAY'S NUMBER

**1.000** 

The number of vomit bags that St John Ambulance will have to hand during the London Marathon on Sunday plus 5,000 cotton wool balls, 1,300 plasters, 300 crape bandages and 88lb of petroleum jelly. There will be 1,500 medical staff on duty.

### Zimbabwe

Ian Porterfield, the Scotsman whose goal won the 1973 FA Cup for Sunderland, will be back in the job market in May. He intends to resign as the coach of Zimbabwe when his contract expires at the end of this month, because of what he describes as undeserved criticism of his team.

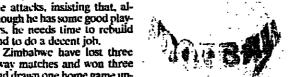
Porterfield - who helped rebuild the astional team in neighbouring Zambia when their squad perished in a plane crash in 1993 - has undergone heavy criticism since taking up the Zimbabwe job. The media has accused him of transforming the Zimbabwe side from an attacking outfit into an ultra-

United whingers

defensive team. He dismisse: the attacks, insisting that, although he has some good players, he needs time to rebuild and to do a decent job.

away matches and won three and drawn one home game under Porterfield's charge in qualifiers for the African Nations' Cup and the World Cup. There is too much unwarranted criticism of the team here - unlike Zambia where everyone was behind the team," he said. "I am definitely going back home to see my wife and my children."

Bruce Grobbelaar, who was caretaker national coach earlier this season before Porterfield's arrival, may be asked to



around the world fill the same role again - unless his retrial in June on match-fixing charges dictates otherwise.

Last Sunday's World Cup qualifier between Gabon and Morocco in Libreville was abandoned after 55 minutes

when Gabonese fans invaded the pitch soon after the visitors took a 4-0 lead. Missiles rained on to the pitch at the Omnisport stadium as the players fled r cover. Fifa may allow the result to stand, and will surely impose sanctions on Gabon.

**United States** 

Major League Soccer will expand to 12 teams in 1988 when clubs in Miami (playing at the Orange Bowl) and Chicago (based at Soldier Field) join up. The latter club will be run by Philip Anchutz, who already owns the MLS side Colorado Rapids and the National Hockey League's Los Angeles Kings.

### Mercer hopes to be ready

of playing as better than 50-50. on Tuesday, will take over.

The defender Darren Carr. who has been troubled by a calf injury, has come into contention after resuming training but Paul Holland did not train yesterday because of a groin strain and is another worry. Andy Morris and Chesterfield's captain, Sean Dyche, did some light training and should be fit.

Scotland's leading clubs yes-

agement committee scrapped plans to put a 16-12-12 divisional plan to a vote of all clubs at the end of the current campaign. Now Scottish football must wait to see what the future holds after a meeting in Edinburgh yesterday between chair-

"The Premier Division rep-

Premier Division clubs have same time. Those over 21 must decided to appoint management consultants and a report will be received at a later date."

The Rangers chairman, David Murray, and his Celtic counterpart, Fergus McCann, are very much at the heart of the plans for a "Premiership". styled on the English example. The top clubs want more control over negotiations with sponsors and television companies - areas in which current contracts expire at the end of

next season. The loan system - common in England - may be reintroduced in the Scottish League, which will be asked at its annual meeting next month to approve clubs being allowed to five players on loan per season as long as three are under-21 age-group

There are various provisions written in the proposal to prevent any club having any more install a temporary police box

months - but the younger players can stay longer.

Donald said: "This would

mean a major club giving a player on loan to a club in a lower division so that the boy could gain experience. It would help youth development. Heart of Midlothian have been rebuffed once again in their attempt to play Rangers at

Murrayfield on Sunday 11 May instead of at Tynecastic Park the previous day as scheduled. The Edinburgh club wanted

to switch because of redevelopment work at Tynecastle which, they say, will leave them without a police observation box. But the League will not allow a switch of the fixture, saying all last-day games must be played on the same afternoon. Hearts have now been told to

Sir: I listened to Graham Kelly on the radio last night on a phone in with Alan Green, and was quite outraged at what he said about Manchester United being permitted to lengthen the season. His words that his "heart" told him Manchester United's request should be granted, enraged

We can judge the position of the Football Association by asking ourselves, if Southampton or Nottingham Forest had made the same request, what would have been Mr Kelly's response? What would his "heart" have said then? And even more to the point, if United were to get their way on this, how long before they start throwing their weight around in other areas?

One thing is certain, United are not the gentlemanly outlit Liverpool were in their hey-day. That's one of the main reasons why many people dislike them so much. Liverpool then set an example in more ways than one. But not the current Unit-

ed. Some people say Alex Ferguson is in the tradition of Bushy, Shankly and Stein, I say rubhish.

Those men were more than just winning machines. They had a moral dimension which is totally lacking in Ferguson. And they certainly would not have been trying on tricks like this to steal a march. IRENE GUY Hamburg, Germany

Primary problem

Sir: I am afraid Mr Pringle has got it all wrong ("Wisden and MacLaurin open attack on English game. 3 April). Cricket is not popular in England because it is not played in primary schools, where women teachers and women governors are hostile to it.

We took cricket into my son's primary school and in two years got together a good cricket XI but, more important, a lot of younger KWIK crickclers at the school were keen to get into the team when their age permitted. The enthusiasm is there, despite the fact that cricket takes a long time to learn and it is a tragedy that the wonderful game of cricket doesn't push itself into our pri-

mary schools. My experience proves works and I do hope Lord MacLaurin copies my lead but it will cost, of course. The more players that come through our schools, the higher the standards and the greater the competition. RODNEY J SMITH

Craydon Letters should be marked "For publication" and should contain daytime and evening phone numbers. They should be sent to Sports Editor, The Independent, I Canada Square, London E14 5DL. They may be shortened for reasoms of space.

Chesterfield's goalkeeper Billy Mercer will have a fitness test tomorrow morning to find out if he can play in Sunday's FA Cup semi-final against Mid-dlesbrough at Old Trafford. Mercer, who suffered bruised ribs against Gillingham last weekend, has resumed light training and rates his chances

"I haven't done a great deal yet. I've still got to dive about and see how it stands up to that," he said yesterday. If Mercer is ruled out Andy Leaning, who deputised against Watford

terday put paid to the proposal for a 16-team Premier Division next season. The Scottish League man-

men of the top 10 clubs. The 16-12-12 plan, original-

ly put forward by Jack Steedman of Clydebank, is now doomed to failure and the matter will not even be raised at the League's annual meeting on 31 May.

resentatives on the management committee indicated they would vote against the proposal en masse and it was decided there was little point in it going forward," the Scottish League secretary, Peter Donald, said. They also informed us the than four players on loan at the or come up with another venue.

### Lyle still seeking missing magic

Robert Green reports from Augusta on a former champion's mission

It has been 10 years since Sandy Lyle played in the Ryder Cup; nine since he won the Masters. He is 39, which too often lately has been his score for nine holes, although in the first round of the Masters, a tournament in which he has missed the cut more times than he has made it since 1988, conditions were such that 39 on either nine was no

egregious achievement. A chill breeze, that would be considered negligible at St Andrews but at Augusta rendered the ever treacherous greens more unreceptive than ever, made it abundantly clear to the whole field that par

c. drinkage

math for

would be an excellent score. Outwardly at least, nothing much has changed with Lyle over these fallow years. His first drive was long and straight and the subsequent steepling pitch set up a chance for a birdie three from 15 feet. But the putt, as they frequently do these days, slipped by the hole.

Yesterday the broom-handle was left in the locker in favour of a conventional putter, but that does not mean to say that it days are necessarily num-

Lyle will pretty much try any-thing that might enable him to rediscover the magic. The reason why was succinctly demonstrated when he three-putted

the third and missed from three feet at the seventh, neither being a heinous offence at Augusta but no more ac-

Ceptable for that.

Sandy has a perfect sponsorship. His shirt logo proclaims Lyle-Scot, both his name and nationality. He strolls down the fairway with that familiar, almost endearing, ambling gate, yesterday chatting amicably between shots to his playing partner, Mark

Nine years ago, Lyle beat Calcavecchia by a stroke to win the Masters with the assistance of that bunker shot from the fairway trap on the 18th that set up his clinching, audacious breathtaking birdie from 10 feet. It was his third win of the fledgling season in the States. He was the first Briton to don the champion's green jacket. He led the money list. He was the best golfer in the world.

"He should go back to Europe," said Calcavecchia ruthlessly. He did. Now he is trying primarily to make his way on the US tour once again, but he would love to go back to the game he had in '88. As it was he reached the turn in 38, better than most of the field.

planes than Heathrow. One of his plethora of teachers, Simon Holmes, recently opined: "Sandy has always had a bad ing. Now he has a bad swing that he thinks about."

When he puts in an en-couraging performance it is only effervescent improvement. At the Players' Championship two weeks ago, he started with the fizz and then fizzled out. He opened with a 68 and closed with an 80. This week at Augusta, the fear has to be that he has got his good round in before the first round. On Wednesday, he became the first European to win the traditional par-three tourna-

ment, with a five-under-par 22. History says the man who wins that cannot go on to win the real thing, but no one expects Sandy to do that anyway. since the 1992 Volvo Masters. In eight American tournaments in 1997 he has missed three cuts and has not been placed higher than 18th.

Lyle has known the best of times in golf, and also the most frustrating. But whatever the fluctuations in his game, the one thing that has never changed has been the amenable fashion in which be Most of the field to that point. has dealt with both the rough Even at his best it used to be and the fairway. At that at least, said that Lyle's swing had more he remains the champion.



Sandy Lyle drives off the first tee during practice for the Masters, which began yesterday

### Leading clubs plan to corner League sponsorship

Rugby Union

**CHRIS HEWETT** 

Rugby's money men took centre stage yesterday to prove once and for all that when the rich get richer, the poor get short shrift. Prominent among the various winners in the financial ball park were England's First and Second Division clubs, all of whom were relishing the prospect of a £7.5m investment over three years by the Allied Dunbar insurance con-

financing the domestic rugby boom, club insiders were expecting the deal to be ratified next week. England's league set-up, the widest-ranging compe-tition of its type in world sport,

Sadly for the clubs outside -Although Allied were in no sponsorship. With the big- Gloucester are due to hold a stead.

spending English élite hoovering up every last penny available next season, well over 1,200 lesser lights will be left to fumble in the dark for their own financial salvation. Meanwhile, two of the Eng-

their own. Sale's membership summer's Lions tour of South the top two divisions, no mon- met last night to consider the Africa after a financial dispute while I'm away. On previous ey from the new deal will trick-ramifications of a major busi- with the management. Mark tours, both the team doctor and le down through the system, as ness investment, thought to

similar general meeting tonight. If the West Countrymen ratify their proposed cash injection, Philippe Saint-André, the former French captain, could appear on the left wing at Kingsholm next season.

has been sponsored by lish sides challenging for European Currence of the season. Sale and Gloucester, were repeated to set in morion. Murphy, the England physiomass season. Davies, Murphy's Welsh counit did in the days of Courage amount to at least £2.5m, while terpart, will make the trip in-

"The four home unions were not prepared to pay me any-where near the £150 per day that is the recognised British Medical Association figure for employing a locum," said Murphy, who has travelled with the

running his own practice over and above his rugby duties. "I am a professional physic and I need to ensure that someone keeps the practice going I finished out of pocket, but we accepted we would lose money

last three Lions parties despite

should be recognised by the

For all that, there was good news for the Lions yesterday. Tony Underwood, one of four chosen wings, was confident of recovering from the fractured jaw he sustained during New-Bedford in time to catch the flight to Johannesburg.

More importantly still, Keith Wood, the Harlequins and Ire-land hooker who has been stricken by shoulder problems under the amateur regime. If for the last two months, re-

England can recognise my ported no ill effects from his worth at international level, it run-out against Saracens on run-out against Saracens on England's second-string Test

squad will play four fixtures in Buenos Aires on next month's six-match tour of Argentina, which starts with a game against Cordoba. The trip is similar to the visit that England made in castle's weekend dust-up with 1990, when they played seven games, with four in Buenos

ENGLAND A TOUR SCHEDULE: 21, May: v Cortioba (Cordoba): 24 May: v Buenos Airas (Buenos Airas Circlet & Rugby Club): 27 May: v Argantina A (Buenos Airas Cinclet & Rugby Club): 31, May: v Argantina (FCO Ground, Buenos Airas): 3 Juse: v Cuyo (Mendoza): 7 Juna: v Argantina (FCO Ground, Buenos Airas).

McDermott ban stays

### **Prospect** of British victory boosted

sport

Athletics MIKE ROWBOTTOM

The prospect of Sunday's Flora London Marathon producing the first British male winner in four years rose significantly yesterday as three of the top international contenders reported

difficulties in their preparation. Canvassed earlier this week on who they thought would be their runners – Paul Evans, Richard Nerurkar, Eamonn Martin and Gary Staines - all gave imme-diate mention to Steve Moneghetti and Antonio Pinto.

But Moneghetti, the Australian who was second in Lon-don in 1989 and 1995, said yesterday he had had his training disrupted by an ankle ligament injury in February. And Pinto, the Portuguese runner who won in 1992 and came third two years ago, suffered a foot iniury in January.

Jerry Lawson of the United States, who finished runner-up to Evans in the Chicago Marathon last October, also maintained that his preparation had been only partially successful, although in his case the problem was the unseasonal weather in Texas.

"It's been cold and rainy threequarters of the time I've been there, which is very unusual," said the 30-year-old, who has attracted particular attention in recent years for his eccentric hair styles – he has raced in luminous green and a mobican.

Lawson, who is as strong but not necessarily as sharp as he would like to be, is also renowned for the intensity of his training once clocking 830 miles in a month. "That was before I ran my first marathon and I was coaching myself." he said. "I was learning by trial and error. That was one of my trials and errors at the same time."

If the American has become more cautious in recent years. then so has Pinto, who nearly ran away with the 1995 title only to see his lead of over a minute cut back in the final couple of miles. "I am not going to do something crazy this time," he said.

As temperatures could rise as high as 17C by late Sunday afternoon, the organisers are increasing the number of bottles of water on the course from 500,000 to 650,000 and installing shower units at nine, 16 and 21 and a half miles.

### Lancashire see the light

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Lancashire are experimenting with a mobile floodlighting sys-tem which they hope will increase their chances of staging one of the World Cup matches under lights in two years' time.

The Benson and Hedges Cup and NatWest Trophy holders plan a 50-overs friendly against Yorkshire at Old Trafford on 21 July, starting at 3pm and finishing around 11pm, in an attempt

> lows similar ideas from Surrey and Warwickshire, who are also planning floodlit matches this cason, and if the concept catches on it could become part of the 1999 World Cup, thue to be taged in England. Sunday League and the one-day trucks with banks of lights will trophies are prime candidates." staged in England.

crease the number of day-night

fixtures next season. "We tested it at the end of January and it looked very opportunity, by staging a daynight match, to see if it attracts a different audience.

"What we need is to attract new fans to come and watch cricket. and gauge how northern cricket and chimate is different to Australia I know, but The friendly Roses game fol- I believe we should find ways and means of doing things rather than putting up obstacles. If the experiments prove successful, the England and Wales Cricket Board will want to look at things differently and competitions like the

be positioned outside the perimeter of Old Trafford and illuminate the playing area. If successful, Lancashire plan to inand suggest we stage a quarterfinal or semi-final of the World Cup under lights. I was amazed when it was tested because you good," the county's chief exec-utive John Bower said. "It's an opportunity, by staging a day-which Warwickshire are thinking of using but Surrey are being forced to use the lights inside the ground because the Oval is such a big playing area."

The ICC Trophy third place play-off between Scotland and Ireland in Kurala Lumpur was abendoned for the day yesterday due to a thunderstorm, with Scotland on 56 for 1 from 19 overs. If play is not possible today, Ireland will win by virtue of scoring more points in the group stages and go through to the 1999 World Cup

### **Cautious Graf to** postpone return

Steffi Graf yesterday postponed her comeback after a knee injury, pulling out of this month's Hamburg Open where she could have faced the new world No 1, Martina Hingis.

"My long break from the game means I have to be careful about my preparations which will take a bit longer." Graf said. "I don't want to put my good recovery in any danger by coming back too soon." Graf, the Wimbledon champion, lost the No 1 spot to the Swiss teenager at the end of last

month. The Hamburg tournanent starts on 29 April. mania, overpowered the Dutch top seed 7-5, 6-3, to move into ment starts on 29 April. broke three little bones in the

middle finger of his right hand but will try to continue playing in tournaments.

Ivanisevic, ranked No 5 in the world and winner of 19 career titles, slammed the door on his finger at his apartment in Split. Doctors suggested that Ivani-sevic should take a one-month break from the game, but he said: "I have no intention to stay away for such a long time."

Andrei Pavel, of Romania, caused an upset by defeating the Wimbledon champion, Richard Krajicek, yesterday in a second-round match of the Gold Flake Open event in Madras, India. Pavel, who lives in Germany but plays Davis Cup for Ro-

the quarter-finals.

Rugby League DAVE HADFIELD

The Bradford Bulls chairman, Chris Caisley, has criticised the league's disciplinary system after his prop. Brian McDer-mott, failed in his appeal yesterday against the remaining three matches of his suspension

for punching.
"We are aggrieved at the inconsistency of the system and aggrieved that the committee found, despite the evidence to the contrary, that he had not been provoked," Caisley said. "Our player has been banned for four matches for fighting,

while Leeds' Barrie McDermott, who has a far worse disciplinary record, only got three for a high tackle, which is po-tentially far more dangerous." fixed penalties, which was dis- to Leeds, for whom lestyn Harcussed but found little support ris makes his first start. Harris. at the meeting of the Rugby who was an instant success

League Council this week.
The first consequence of the appeal's failure is that the Bulls' coach will have to manage without one of his key forwards at Wigan tonight. He will use a combination of Paul Anderson and Jeff Wittenberg to compensate against a Wigan team which he predicts "will be at its best for such a big match."

Wigan have opted for the feminine touch on the administration side by promoting club secretary Mary Sharkey to football manager. Sharkey, 33, who has spent 16 years at the club, becomes Super League's second woman football manager, following the appointment of Re-becca Cove at Paris St-Germain.

St Helens, just behind Bulls rent Frayssinous and Jerome Caisley favours a system of at the top of Super League, go

week, will be in his favourite stand-off position against the side who were the favourites to sign him. Lee St Hilaire replaces the injured Leroy Rivett on the If Bradford and Saints lose Salford could be the leaders of Super League. They face Sheffield without Andy Platt,

when he made his debut as a

substitute against Wigan last

who has a rib injury, but winger Paul Evans has escaped a ban for an alleged high tackle. Halifax have increased their French contingent to five with the arrival of the Tunisian-born Test forward, Ezzedine Attia. and the half-back. Vincent Banet, plus two teenagers, Lau-

### **Turner under** investigation

Officials from three organisations are to meet to investigate the case of a banned sprinter who was picked for the World Indoor Championships last month. Doug Turner was selected for the British squad to compete in Paris despite being under a

the Scottish Games Association in January for testing positive for an illegal stimulant. The British Athletics Federation, which selected the squad, had not been told of the ban and has requested more information from the SGA, as has the world governing body, the Inter-

national Amateur Athletics

three-month ban imposed by

Federation. A BAF spokesman said: "A meeting is being held between the SGA, the Scottish Athletics Federation and the BAF on 23 April to discuss the matter.

We have requested further information in writing from the cSGA, and the IAAF have requested of us the same infor-

... Turner was caught using an illegal stimulant in the New Year designal sprint in Edinburgh.

### American football

Sinn Stap, the Scottish Claymores run-ning back, will resume training with the World League club next week star charges were dropped relating to an af-leged assault. Stacy was an ested at Af-tanta Airport last month following the alleged incident in Florida in December atteged incident in monde in December and was immediately suspended by the League. The ban was littled earlier this week but too late for their opening match against the Amsterdam Admirals

Radiolaton

Backeniston

Simon Archar and Julie Bradbury will resume their long standing partnership at the World Championships in Glasgow next month. They are among a squad of 24 selected for the event, but there is no place for one of Britain's best women's players, Jo Muggeddge, following a long-term dispute with Steve Baddeley, the national manger. Steve Baddeley, the national trianger.
ENGLAND SQLIAD (Norted Champlonshipe,
Glasgow, 25 May-1 June): Men, shagles.
D Hall, C Haughgon, P Knowles, M Constatis, Doubles: S Archer and C Hurr, N Porting,
and J Quinn, I Pearson and J Anderson, J
Robertson and A Clark, Women, shagled: J
Mann, T Hellem, T Woodward, E Chaffe, Doubles: N Beck and J Device, S Hardaker and
E Chaffe, J Braddony and D Kelog, S Sankey
and J Weight, Bigsal deables: Auther and Bradbury, Robertson and L Cole, Hurt and Kelogg,
Clark and Wright.

- Football 7.30 unless stated NATIONWIDE FOOTBALL LEAGLIE SECOND DIVISION Retherbass v Breatford (7.45).

THERD DIVISION. Colchester Y Secreta (7.45) Manufeld Y Carpsio (7.45) ... ees (7,45) ... ICIS LEAGUE Promier Division: Enfield v MORTH WEST COUNTES LEAGUE FIRST DI-UNUET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First Di-vision: Hassociet y Shoreham.

finals in England.

Baseball
American LEAGUE: Detroit: 10 Minnesota
5; Chicago White Sox O Toronto: 5; Caldand
4, Boston 3 (10 Inval; Seattle 11, Classland
1; Kantasa City 2 Battorore 4; Anshelm 5 NY
Yantases 12. Postponed: Minaches y Teres.
NATIONAL LEAGUE: San Francisco 3 Philadelphia 0; Colorado 13 Cincinneti 4; Atlanta 4
Housson 3 (12 Inva); Los Angeles 3 NY Mets
2 (14 Inval; San Diego 2 Pittsburgh 4. Basketbali

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BOWIS

ALL ENGLAND MEN'S BROOGE CHAMPHONSMP (MELTON MOWERAY): Pairs
second round: York (I and I Boyle) to Carrice Dunber (R Francis, G Shathwell 23-12;
Berdpool Borough (S Ainty, M Burrows) bt Mid
Suffolk (I & G Clouling) 30-12; Tynedale N
Hooter, K Henderson) bt Swircion Westlecot
(G Histhess, S Werren) 22-17; Noch Walnham
(B Taylor and D Ward bt Victory of Foster and
P Hobdey) 28-14; Econic (S Stevens and I
Bond) bt Cartiniogens (D end I Drew) 28-5;
Handy Cross (A Springel and G Genee) bt British
Celophane (M Homerons and R Billington)
33-12; Westlord (R Ayres, M Yellsch) bt Barwell (A Burford, P Maskin) 20-14; Derfregion
(X and T Bousfield) in Perdisonal (M Altins and
A Burbridge) 19-9. Quarter-finais: Bactool
Borough Ix York 22-17; Warjord by Tynedale

SPORTING DIGEST 20-19; Exonia tit North Weishern 23-13; Handy Cross bt Derlington 24-16. Ffigles final: Ben-tream (R Shergold, A Wills, T Alcock) bt Kingstrope, Northampton (A Merson, I Weik-er, M Sharpe) 19-18.

Richie Woodhaff's comeback has been recrie wooding as comeach reas see delayed following elbow surgery. The for-mer European and Commonwealth middleweight champion who has not fought since October, had originally planned to make a return to action in May but he is now aiming for August.

Football
WEDNESDAYS LATE RESULTS: European
Cap Senti-finals, first legt - yex 1 (Limpane
Cat) Jerema 2 (Amoruso 14, Viert 42);
Bonatala Dortmand 1 (Instance 75) Manchester Intel 0. PR. Carling Presidenship
Coveriny 3 (Dubin 48, Wilderns 51, Wielen
58) Chelena 1 (P Hughes 43); Devt 1 (Ward
66) Southempton 1 (Powel og 90); Everton
1 (Banch 17) Lukoster 1 (Marshall 70);
Sheffleid Wednesster 2 (Asherton 18, Booth
70) Totterham 1 (Neclesen 43); West Hom 0
Muddlesbrough 0: Wimbledon 0 Aston Ville 2
(Microsic 28, Winght 78), Nationwide Football League First Direction of Christon
61, 90) Huddersteid 1 (Delton 77);
Manchester Cay 1 (Orlindadre 24) Bolton 2
(Pastelsinen 38, Seiters 55); West Brom 1
(Peschooldo 79) Cystal Paizer D. or Marders
League Prevaler Division: Mauport AFC 2
Afterstone 0; Stongbourne 1 Beldock 0, Midleod Division Cody 3 Shepshed Dynamot;
Raunds 2 Evesiem 1; VS Rugby 2 Bedworth
2. Southern Division; Beshley 0 Haven 3.

TODAY'S FIXTURES

BASS INISH CUP Semi-front: Glenavon v Omneh (at the Ovel, Belfast). HARP LAGER NATIONAL LEAGUE OF IRE-LAND Premier Division: St Patrick's Africa-ic y Bray Wanderers (7.45).

Rugby League STORES SUPER LEAGUE Leeds v St Helene (7.30): Salioni v Snelled (7.30): Wagen v Brad-ford (7.30). First Divisions Devisiony v Widnes (7.45). Second Division: Lancachine Lync v York (7.30). Beskethell

Inbursh v Hulf (7,30); Oxford v Exster (7,45).

STAR CUP: Bette Vue v Swindon (7.30); Peterborough v Poole (7.30).

BRITISH UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIPS

mai: Arena Essex (8.0).

DNS: European Chempionship Imais BOWLS: English Men's Championship

icis Langue Premier Division: Harrow Borcugh I Sishop's Surdon't I. Second Division: Met Police I Bedford Cowell. Third Division: Flagional Heath 3 Harlow 1; Leves 4 Kingstony 1, Habborat League Premier Division: Banop Auckland 3 Hyde Uni O; Boston Uni O Leek 2; Knowsky 1 Harloom 1. Serverkt Direct League Premier Division: Strängton O Cohe 2. Winstonlead Kont Langue First Division: Sheppey 1 Favership 2. Unifer Steeper Division: Mirriese Blackstone 1, Spatistra Unif. Sport Unifer Condition Mirriese Blackstone 1, Spatistra Unif. Sport Unifer Division: Mirriese Blackstone 1, Spatistra Unifer Division: Mirriese Blackstone 1, Spatistra Unifer Division: Haffer 1, Belber 2. Redemation Brewser Northern League First Division: Crook O Bedington Tenters 2. Postponskt Whitby KiRM Necessite, Press 8, Journal Highland League; Cove Rangers 4 Description C: Netter Court of Wick, Academy 0, Langue of Wales: Connec Bay 1, Webster Langue Premier Division: Brand 1, Kerth 2 Freesthuppi 0. Netter Courty 0 Wick, Academy 0, Langue of Wales: Connec Bay 1, Webster Langue Premier Division: Bradford City 0 York 3; Strensbury 1 Garnshy 1; Stockport 0 Bernsley 3; Wiresham 1 Carlisle 2. Third Division: Chessin-Red O Wales 1; Doncaster 2 Chester 4; Rochdale 0 Lincoln City 0; Wigan 1 Dar-

Ingion 1. Avon Insurance Combination
First Division: Boumercouth O Swenses 0:
Bughton 5 Cardiff 0; Mahael O Tottenhem 1.
League Cup: Wintbledon 2 Oxford 1:
Southerston 1 Crystal Palaces 1. FA Youth
Cup sent-finel first leg: Litton Town 1
Ledds Utd 2: World Cup African zone Groop
Turbe (Warrer, Zhaisbawe); Zaire 2 (Surati
26, Bacamba 50) Zambia 2 (Mahael 21, Temto 81). Seman League St Paul; 2 (Emeto 81). Seman League St Paul; 2 (Emeto 81). Seman League St Paul; 2 (Emeto 7, Schaping 9) Vil. Bochum 1 (Wacht 74). ice hockey

ICO TROCTORY
Mill: Octave S Hardord 4; NY Islanders 1 Mon-trial 3; Ronda 4 New Jersey 2; Chicago 0 St. Louis 1: Deltas 3 Toronto 2: San José 4 Col-orado 1; Detroc 3 Edmonton 3 (by: Vancouver 6 Phoenix 4; Anshelm 4 Los Angeles 1. Rugby League WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULT: Second Di-vision: Leigh 41 Bramley 10.

Rugby Union Douglas Morgan, the former national coach will manage Scotland's tour for South Africa this summer. A 30-suring party will be announced on Monday, along with the coaching team, for the tour which begins against Zimbabwe on 17 June. COURAGE CLUBS' CHAMPIONSMP National Langue One: Harlequins 27 Saracers O.

The Italian heimsman, Francesco de An-gelis, is having talks with Paul Cayard's Swedish team EF Whitbread Syndicate. He is expected to leave after being ap-proached to be skipper of Italy's Amer-ica's Cup Challenge on Ordand in 2000. Speedway
WEDNESDAY'S LATE RESULTS: Premier

Lague Cur: Long Eston 53. Reading 39; Hull 61 Geograf 29. Starr Cup: Kings Lynn 46 Est-bourne 44; Poole 52 Peterborough 38.

bourne 44; Probe 52 Penerhorough 38.

Switchening
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP TRIALS
(Shoffield: Men. 100m breaststroke: 1 R
Maden (Rochide) 1:02:73; 2 A Ayres
(Saenseal: 1/03:38; 2 D Meer (Rice of Wight)
1:04.13, 100m butterfly: 1 S Perry (Liverpool) 54.03; 2 Hickman (Stociport) 54.46;
3 M Wadens (Torland) 55-97. 200m freestyle:
1 P Paimer (Bath 1mm 49.65eer; 2 J Seller
(Edithungh) 1:50.54; 3 A Cayron (Leeds)
1:50.76, Women, 100m breastyle: 1 S Robh
(Neucastie) 56.24; 2 K Pederner (Ippench)
56.71; 3 C Huddart (Leeds) 56.81, 200m
breaststroker, 2 J Kerg (Bath) 2:53.69; 2 L
Haddnersh (Leeds) 2:55.93; 3 R Eap (Neucastle-under-Lyme) 2:36.19, 400m mediey:
1 S Nester (Portsmouth) 4:542; 2 J Swallov Øllendhales) 4:54.93; 3 R Compr (Wigen)
4:58.45.

DAVIS CIP WORLD GROUP QUALIFYING ROUND DRAME Zimbabwe v Austra; Brazil v New Zealand; Inda v Chie; Belgium v France; Germany v Mexico; Russle v Romans; Canada v Stovakas; Switzerland v South No-188. (Matches to be played 17 to 19 September)

ESTORIL MEN'S OPEN Second round: C Moys (Sp) bit R Fromberg (Aus) 8-2 6-3; F Martilla (Sp) bit H Arasi (Mor) 8-2 6-3; F Claver (Sp) bit G kuetan (Bra) 1-6 6-1 7-6; A Berasategui (Sp) bit C Ruuri (Nor) 6-1 6-4. A Beresstegal (Sp.) to CRUAI (Nor) 6-1.6-4.
BAUSCH & LAMB WOMEN'S CHAMPRONSHIP (Amelia Istand, Fig.: Second round: J Novotna (Cr Rep) to B Schert (Aut)
4-6-6-4.6-0; i Majoli (Crae) to A Montolio (Sp.) 6-3-6-2; M J Fernandez (US) to P NBoulais (Can) 6-3-6-0; M Pietre (Fr) to H Nagova (Slovak) 7-5-6-0; A Cetzer (SA) to A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-4-8-6-1; B SchaltzMCCartin (Instit) to S Walness (Tr) 5-6-0; A Creat (SA) tot A Mauresmo (Fr) 6-4 2-8 6-1; 8 SchustzMcCarriy, (Nest) bit 5 (Weinbox (12 Rep) 7-5
6-3: A Fussu (Fr) bt E Likhoviseva (Rus) 1-8
7-5 6-4; R Dragomir (Romana) bt A Grossman (US) 6-2 6-3; C Rubin (US) bt V Williams
(US) 6-4 6-0; J Kandarr (Ger) bt S Forma
(8) 6-4 7-6; M Weingartner (Ger) bt T Jecmenica (Yug) 2-6 7-6 7-5.

### ON WEDNESDAY IT WAS THEM.

Draw date: 9/4/97. The winning numbers: 6, 22, 35, 42, 45, 49. Sonus number: 16. Total Sales: £25,900.774. Prize Fund: £11.655,348 (45% of ticket sales).

	total delication to the state of the state o				
CATEGORY	NO. OF WINNERS	AMOUNT FOR EACH WINNER	TOTAL EACH TIER		
Match 6 (Jackpot)	2	£1.961,005	£3,922.010		
Match 5 plus bonus ball	7	£172,396	£1,206,772		
Match 5	371	£2,032	£753,872		
Match 4	22,469	£73	£1.640,237		
Match 3	411.302	£10	£4,113,020		
TOTALS	434,151	<del>                                     </del>	£11,635,911		

IN COMPUT THE TIEN, THE NATIONAL LOTTERY In the event of any discrepancy in the above, the data contained in Camelot central computer system shall prevail.

### Painful saddles

**Andrew Martin** 

on the Superbikes, page 29

### United to appeal as season extension ruled out

Football

ROB McLEAN

Manchester United will launch an immediate appeal to the Football Association over the Premier League's refusal to grant them an extension to the season to alleviate their massive fixture crisis.

Their chairman Martin Edwards reacted angrily to this morning's decision which leaves his club facing four games in the final eight days of the season to

decide their title destiny. Edwards slammed the Premiershio as "amateurish" and the decision as "ludicrous". He said: "We will obviously appeal

this. We believe this is the wrong decision.

Time is of the essence so we will do that as soon as possible. We are extremely upset and ag-grieved about the decision. If the FA turn it down, whether we can take it to law, I don't know. That's something we will have to look at in due course.

appeal to the FA or maybe a judicial review or something like that. I think it is that serious." United, still clinging on to their dream of winning the European Cup, wanted an extra few

"We either have to win it by

United's rivals Arsenal and

days to arrange their outstand-ing fixture against Newcastle.

and after meeting with the FA chief executive. Peter Leaver, and the Premier League chairman, Sir John Quinton, United heard the bad news.

"In reaching a decision the Premier League board has considered the need of all the clubs and taken full account of the issues at stake in the final weekend of the season," a spokesman explained.

"At this stage it is possible that every game on 11 May will have an impact on either the championship, European places or relegation.

However, Edwards is astonished that the climax of a nine-

ing granted special treatment densed into a week at the end

United will now meet Leicester away on 3 May, followed by home games against Middlesbrough, Newcastle and finally West Ham on 6 May, 8 May and 11 May respectively.

Edwards explained: "We are extremely disappointed. People criticise and say it is Manches-ter United moaning and whining again. But there are particular circumstances why we were aggrieved.

"We were due to play Middlesbrough but the date clashed with the FA Cup and that competition took preference. We rearranged the fixture

this to the FA. We have to do Liverpool objected to them be-month campaign should be con-but Middlesbrough had to in the world, but this is amareschedule their game against Stockport because the Stockport pitch was waterlogged and

this time it was the Coca-Cola Cup that was given preference.
"We have been available on other dates to rearrange matches but other clubs were given preference.

"We have tried very hard to sort this out because we were aware of the fixture problems piling up. Suddenly now it is only Manchester United being asked to play these four games

"To expect us to play more than 10 per cent of the season over eight days is quite indicaous. They say this is the best league

teurish. It's crazy and it simply shows how badly it is being run.

United could well have argued that Middlesbrough's offence in calling off their fixture at Blackburn because of injuries is at the root of United's own problems - something the Premier League surely would have found hard to resist, having docked Boro three points and then insisted their fine must

stand after appeal. Edwards added: "We just argued the case from our point of view. There are other points

other people might make." Sir Bobby Charlton, with the United team in Dortmund for Wednesday's European Cup try to help clubs that are successful. They cancelled our Easter programme for internationals and now they are forc-

ing us to play four games in eight days. It's madness. "We are representing Eng-land—and Liverpool are as well - just the same as the national team. We would hope that our own association would try to help us, but they don't seem to be interested.

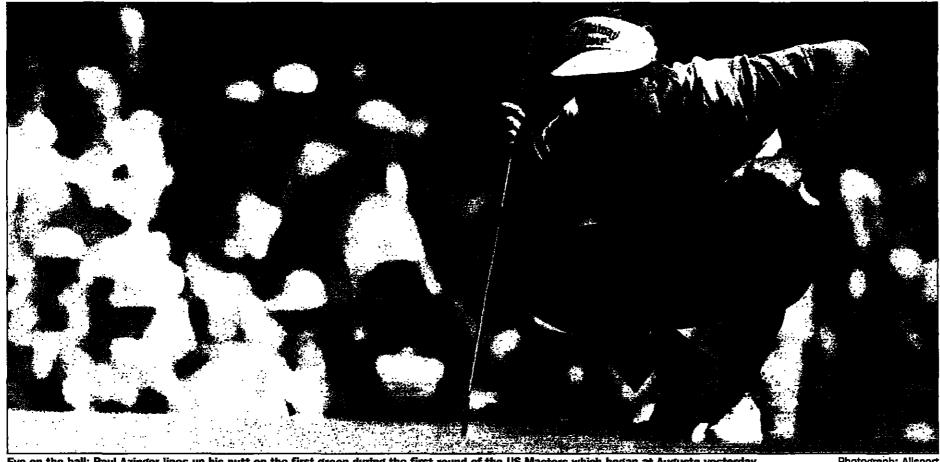
Charlton, a United director and a member of their 1968 European Cup winning team added: "I think we should have something to say about this decision, even if I don't believe

semi-final first leg defeat, said: that the FA will have a rethink "You do hope that the FA would we will appeal. They've had we will appeal. They've had enough time to think about it already. But we can't let it rest like this, even if it's just to make sure that this situation never arises in the future.

"They said in 1992, after we were forced to play four games in six days and lost the league title, that the advent of the Premier League would make sure that this never happened again. But it has and we're paying for our success again."

Arsenal's manager Arsène Wenger and Liverpool's Roy Evans yesterday both backed the Premier League's rejection of

### 61st US MASTERS: British challenge off to shaky start as Westwood finds too many bunkers



### Torrance troubled by greens

Golf

ANDY FARRELL reports from Augusta

The honorary starters had the right idea on a chilly Thursday morning at Augusta. As tradition dictates, Sam Snead, 84, Byron Nelson, 85 and Gene Sarazen, at a stately 95, all drove off the first tee at 8am to get the 61st Masters under

No 3270, Friday 11 April

ACROSS

10 Artist withdrawing before

type? (7) 12 Nonsense that is seen in

you boiling (4)

cauterise cut (5)

tect's drawing (9)

vet fluid? (4, 5)

ster." (5)

adversity's appearance (7)

11 Line British sailor follows in

Cyprus, being a querulous

hospital department makes

13 Shame tar's associated with

hy-product of eigarette (5) 14 About an hour is needed to

15 Lift shown in part of archi-

20 Puzzle set by Confederate

soldier. American (5)

17 Ancient Greek polity, static 3

21 Boredom at first enveloping 5

Athenian character in Ul-

Reserves of courage? (0.4) well (9)
Flemish work is a failure (4) 25 Hairstyle you'll see English

their balls, or in fact, had them collected for them, and disappeared into the clubhouse for breakfast.

They left the task of negotiating the fearsome greens to those who followed. Wise men. Ken Green took a seven at the par-three 16th without going in the water. Instead, he five-putted. Scott Hoch faced a 20-foot putt for his third shot at the ninth and way. They then picked up a 50-yard chip for his fourth.

THE INDEPENDENT CROSSWORD

23 Shaky translator keen to do

sporting (7) 26 In my dreams I waste time,

consuming energy (7)

27 Lift offered in opposite di-

Shakespearean comedy

DOWN

Bit of grass where you've to

go on wheels? (5) Like old archbishop, almost true-blue when tackled on

Where carriages are apt to

cause obstructions? (5-9)

Drink - only half - priest's

constrained to accept (7)

you'll get a boring Christ-

Kiss with restraint and

mas present (7)

28 Standard character in

scripture? (9)

rection when returning (4)

greens, was one of four on 74 once the first quarter of the field had completed their

rounds. Hoch's playing partner, Scotland's Sam Torrance, was briefly joint leader when he returned a three-over 75. His first words were no longer than four letters on which he was prepared to be quoted. "I'd say the greens were un-

CRATED BECKON
A E R E E
BATTILEAKE LADEO
I T L M T E H E
RILL RAZORBCADE
D E T N R N R
BARBARIC AIDES
R S C B N
I AMBIT FLOTILLA
NECROMANCY BANK
E K N U K W N E
OELLIA PROFESSOR

Oriental religious type starting to lead in beast of burden (5)

Calls for public facili-

ties? (3-6)
9 Sleeping-bags? (6, 8)
14 It follows blooming of

16 Unusually big moor fea-

turing ling, not half in a tangle (9) 18 Style or cut of red coat

stance has one account

of mournful poctry (7)

with a certain panache

(3, 4) 19 Spanish article for in-

22 Nymph from north needing help to get around Austria (5)

24 Pen the French used

spring (9)

crocuses around start of

Dan Forsman, despite three-putting six of the first seven are fair if you hit the ball in the right spot, but you know that before you come here. They are not normally this impossible on the first day. I'd prefer a little more leniency so guys are happy with 68s and not 75s."

Augusta officials went to

great lengths on Wednesday to deny the course had been set up any differently from usual. ve heard some comments that the greens are faster than last year," Will Nicholson, the championship chairman, said. "The greens are soft and fast and substantially the same as last year." Having said that, it was hardly likely that there was going to be a repeat of Greg Norman's opening 63 a year ago, which equalled Nick

Price's course record. Until conditions warmed up for the later starters, the cold breeze for those at the top of the draw meant a disad-vantage in terms of length off the tee and spin on the greens. Green's figures were a mass of green (for over-par scores) and his 87 was higher than efforts from former champions such as 74-year-old Doug Ford, Gay Brewer, Billy Casper and Charles Coody. "It's brutal," said John Cook, another early starter who shot a 77. "The greens are rock hard. The first green is turning blue."

Torrance was forced to pull

out of the tournament in New Orleans last week with a wrist

"It was slightly different injury, but he was successfultreated by a physiotherapist from the practice rounds," he in Dallas were he was staying with David Feherty. The pair arrived in Augusta on Monday, Feherty to work for CBS television and Torrance to rediscover his swing on the range.

He three-putted with his broom handle three times in the first seven holes but holed from six feet at the par-three sixth. Even then, the good work set up by his five-iron tee shot

almost came to nothing. "I barely touched the putt but if it had not gone in the hole then it would have been 20 feet past," he said. "It was hard work from the first tee to the last green." At least Torrance had an inkling of what was in store for him. Lee Westwood. the 23-year-old rookie from Worksop, did not and started Early first-round

scores (US unless stated) 74 D Forsman, J Sluman, D Waldori 75 S Cink, S Torrance (GB). 76 ) Leonard. 77 J Cook, T Aaron, L W 79 S Hoch, L Mize, M Brodley 82 °J Miller. B3 C Coody, B Caspec

84 G Brewer.

85 D Ford.

87 K Green.

sighed after a 77. "When you have a card and a pencil in your back pocket, it is totally different. "This is like nothing I have

played before. It is the only one of its kind I should imagine. It was a bit overwhelming on the first tee and I started badly and got worse, but overall it was great fun." Westwood, who was plan-

ning to marry Andrew Coltart's sister, Laurae, on Saturday, drove into the bunker on the right of the first and was in two more at the second. "I was in so many bunkers the glare from the sun could have given me a headache, he said. After splashing back on to the fairway at the first, his pitch shot went though the back of the green. He chipped back to ight feet and the putt broke

less than he thought. Saving par on the third after only just dribbling his chip on to the green and delicate ly two-putting at the fourth, enabled him to begin to settle down. Having gone to the turn in 40, Westwood struck a eight-iron to 20 feet at the 10th for a birdie. At the famous 12th, the wind was against and he asked his caddie for a nine-iron and hit as quickly as he could before the wind changed. He found the green and only just missed his birdie. Lyle's missing magic, page 31

### Shearer bid dismissed by **Newcastle**

Newcastle yesterday refuted in a 1-1 draw with Sunderland. claims that they have received Franz Beckenbauer will trava staggering £20m offer from Barcelona for the England cap-

tain, Alan Shearer.
The Magpies' £15m world record signing had been linked with a move to the Spanish club as replacement for the Brazilian star Ronaldo, who is said to be on his way to Italy before the start of next season, but these reports have been shot down by the Newcastle chief executive, Freddie Fletcher.

"The position is that we know nothing about it. We have not received any offer for Alan Shearer," he told ClubCall.

"We bought Alan Shearer because we believe he is a worldclass player, not to make any money out of him by re-selling him. Alan Shearer will not be for sale from Newcastle United at any price."

Barcelona are managed by the former England manager Bobby Robson, who at one stage was favourite to succeed Kevin Keegan at St James' Park.

He will need a world-class striker if Ronaldo is lured to Italy by either Lazio or Juvenus, who are both report have made £30m offers.

However, Newcastle's manager, Kenny Dalglish, is ready to rebuild the side he inherited from Keegan in January around Shearer. Shearer returned to his Typeside roots in a blaze of publicity last summer when Keegan signed him from

Blackburn. He is Newcastle's leading scorer despite missing two months of the season through injury and made his comeback

10 months last weekend, scoring

Franz Beckenbauer will travel to Switzerland with the German football federation executives next week in a bid to persuade European governing body Uefa to back Germany's bid for the 2006 World Cup.

The former World Cup winning captain and coach has been given a leading role in the German federation's campaign to host the finals.

Both England and Germany. who are involved in a battle to get crucial Uefa support. will meet officials from the governing body in Geneva on 17

Uefa believes Europe should put forward just one candidate to soccer's world governing body, Fifa, which makes a decision on the venue in the year

South Korea and Japan were involved in a bitter and expensive battle to host the 2002 event and were eventually awarded

the finals jointly. Uefa wants to avoid a similar situation in Europe. But the Germans have ruled out any ideas of a joint bid with Eng-

Last weekend the Fifa general secretary, Sepp Blatter, made it clear Fifa did not require Uefa to back just one candidate. Even if rejected by the European body, England would be able to continue their

"The Fifa rules at the moment do not require a continent to put forward just one candidate." he said.

Fifa yesterday upheld a life ban on the former World Cup from a third groin operation in referee Kurt Rothlisberger. who was accused of corruption.

### MORSE

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### **Good news for Williams**

**Motor racing** 

Williams' pursuit of the Formula One world title will continue to be backed by Rothmans, who first formed their successful partnership with the Didcotbased team in 1994. The cigarette company has agreed to

back Williams again next year. No figure has been announced, but deals between a team and its main backer are usually put around £20m. The sponsorship extension

comes as particularly welcome news for Williams, the sport's most successful team, as they face having to pay for engines from next year. Renault, who are pulling out of the sport, have handed over the supply of their engines to their partner, Mecachrome, although teams will have to pay for the engines

in future, at a reported cost of around £13m. Frank Williams, who runs the team, expressed his delight at the

new deal. "Whether it is on the track or in the office, continuity is one of the keys to success in the motor racing business." But not necessarily in the cockpit, as Damon Hill could

testify. The world champion's replacement at Williams, Heinz-Harald Frentzen, goes into this weekend's Argentinian Grand Prix with his talent and mental strength under severe scrutiny.

The German has been a disappointment in his opening two races with Williams. Frentzen was lying second in Australia before sliding out with brake failure with three laps left, but in Brazil he was unable to overtake Hill's Arrows before finishing ninth. It is in qualifying that he has

underperformed in comparison with his double pole winning team-mate, Jacques Villeneuve. Frentzen only took second place in Melbourne with a late run, but was still nearly two sec-

eighth on the grid. The 29-year-old had to scrap a planned break in Brazil before this weekend's race, travelling to the team's headquarters in Grove instead for a meeting with Frank Williams.

onds slower than Villeneuve,

while in São Paulo he was

"I know there is more to come from the car and from me," said Frentzen, who was tipped as a world championship candidatemo after swapping the Sauber for the Williams. "I know there is more pressure on me this year. But I can cope. Without doubt, I am hoping to be on a better position on the grid in Argentina.

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